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Pope concludes historic visit to Ukraine

Over 1 million attend Beatification ceremony in Lviv

Compiled by Marco Levytsky
With information from the following agencies: Religious Information Service of Ukraine, Vatican Information Services, Zenit. org, Papal Text Service, Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty.

By most estimates over 1 million people attended a Byzantine-Rite Mass at Lviv's Hippodrome racetrack June 27 as Pope John Paul Beatified 27 martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the founder of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate.

In his homily, the Holy Father also indicated that the Beatification of Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky may also be forthcoming in the near future.

This ceremony marked the culmination of a triumphant five-day historic visit to Ukraine.

What follows is a chronological account of the Pope's milestone visit:

PHOTO — UNIAN

A view of the crowd during the Beatification Mass at Lviv's Hippodrome, June 27.

June 23

Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Ukraine began at 12:30 p.m. on June 23 with the ritual kiss of local soil and official greetings from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma at Boryspil International Airport outside Kyiv. Opening the official state visit, both heads of state recalled the Christian character of Ukraine's history and the challenges awaiting the nation. The Pope also asked the Ukrainian Orthodox for forgiveness as he likewise offered forgiveness for the wrongs committed against Catholics in Ukraine.

Stepping off the plane from Rome, the Pope continued the custom of his previous 93 international trips by kissing the land of Ukraine, as presented in a decorated bowl resting on a red and black embroidered cloth. In accordance with Ukrainian tradition, he was also welcomed with an offering of bread and salt from a trio of girls in native costume. Joy and relief at the arrival of this long-awaited moment were visible on the faces of the official hosts for the pastoral visit, His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar (head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) and Roman Catholic Archbishop Marian Cardinal Jaworski.

Following a 21-gun salute from the honour guard, President Leonid Kuchma welcomed the Pope as a champion of human rights "who was in the epicentre of great events that changed the character of our world." He also recalled the Popes pastoral predecessors in Ukraine, in particular the first-century saint Pope Clement, who "propagated Christ in Khersones' quarries and suffered for Him." Sts. Cyril and St. Methodius later brought his remains from Ukraine to Rome.

In a similar fashion, the Pope began his 15-minute speech by reflecting on the origins of Christianity in Ukraine. Echoing the tradition that the Apostle Saint Andrew "saw the glory of God shining brightly on the hills of Kyiv", the Pope spoke hopefully, "I seem to see a new radiance spreading over this blessed land."

Both leaders recognized the variety of social and religious tensions in Ukraine today. Recognizing the long road ahead for an independent Ukraine, Kuchma averted to the need for tolerance, respect for others views and beliefs, and love of neighbor. In turn, the Pope emphasized the fraternal nature of his trip and his desire to pay tribute to the Ukrainian confessors of the faith of all traditions. "I come as a brother in the faith to embrace all the Christians who, amid the severest of tribulations, have persevered in their fidelity to Christ."

Directly addressing the hierarchy and faithful of the Orthodox Church, the Pope recalled both the bright and dark times in the relations between the Church of Rome and the Church of Kyiv. He continued the search for forgiveness which marked his pilgrimage to Greece in May, "As we ask forgiveness for the errors committed in both the distant and recent past, let us in turn offer forgiveness for the wrongs endured. The most fervent wish that rises from my heart is that the errors of times past will not be repeated in the future."

The memory of Ukraine's new freedom and release from the trials of centuries including occupations, forced starvations, totalitarian regimes and most recently Chornobyl prompted the Pontiff to encourage a new hope in the nations youth and quote the dream of the 19th-century Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko that "enemies will be no more."

Many Ukrainians were astonished at the pope's fluency. One man, part of a crowd watching the speech in the television department of Kyiv's largest store, said, "He speaks better Ukrainian than the president."

Following the airport ceremony, the Holy Father visited the Church of St. Nicholas built above the tomb of the ninth-century Prince Askold. In front of the miraculous icon of the Mother of God venerated there, the Pope entrusted his journey in Ukraine to her "maternal mantle".

That evening, Pope John Paul called upon leading Ukrainian political and civic figures to strengthen the "three pillars of any authentically human civilization": recognition of God's authority, respect for the dignity of the human person, and the exercise of power to serve the weakest in society.

Upon his arrival at the elegant Mariyinskyj Palace, the Pope met privately with President Kuchma, while Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano talked with Ukrainian Prime Minister, Anatoliy Kinakh and Parliamentary Chairman Ivan Pliushch.

The public meeting started with an address by Kuchma who briefly characterized the current priorities for the country's development, focusing on religious pluralism, human rights, and the integration of Ukraine into Europe.

Not all problems among Ukraine's 105 religious confessions have been resolved, said Kuchma. But the government "is making every effort to ensure freedom of religion in Ukraine and to make the representatives of all confessions full-fledged and equal participants in society."

In his remarks to the political, cultural and business figures, Pope John Paul II echoed a similar theme, beginning with words of thanks for the possibility "to visit this noble country, a cradle of Christian civilization and a homeland where people of different nationalities and religions live together in peace." The Pope again stressed that he had come to Ukraine as a "pilgrim of peace, impelled solely by the desire to testify that Christ is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Recalling the words of an early Ukrainian prince "Do not allow the

Cont. on P. 7

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Генерал Марчук – засновник СБУ, чи таємний агент західних спецслужб?

Славко Волинський

(Радіо «Свобода»)—Російський часопис «Известия» вже неодноразово робив сенсаційні повідомлення про причетність Генерала Марчука до організації касетного скандалу. А тепер у зв'язку з розплутуванням італійським антимафіозним комітетом справи про нелегальне надходження в 1993, 94–му роках української зброї на Балкани з'ясовуються інші факти, які ставлять колишнього КДБіста, засновника СБУ в не вельми зручне становище.

Як вдалось з'ясувати з поінформованих джерел, першому СБУшнику України було все відомо про махінації одеської нафтофірми «Синтез», яка попри нафту нелегально переправляла, для хорватської поліції автомати, ракети і навіть установки «град». Але в той час – 1993, 1994–му, коли президентом України був Леонід Кравчук, а прем'єр–міністром Юхим Звягільський (золоті часи для кримінального бізнесу) – Євген Марчук ще був сірим, слухняним коником, який дивився крізь пальці на все, що дозволяли собі робити можновладці.

Однак, як відомо, в «тихому болоті чорти водяться», Марчук виявився не таким вже й сірим і слухняним коником. Він таємно накоплював інформацію і, як говорять його деякі колишні підлеглі, «грубо порушуючи службову етику», за власною ініціативою «зливав» детальну інформацію про збройові боорудки «Синтезу», «Прогресу», «Глобал Текнолоджіс Інтернешенл» і навіть «Спецекспорту» спецслужбам держав НАТО. (Цікаво чи безкорисно?)

Бо наївно думати, що без чиєїсь наводки з Києва, кораблі НАТО затримали теплохід «Ядран Експрес» переповнений українською зброєю – це чистий випадок!!!

За деякими даними врешті–решт великі досьє по «комерції» «Синтезу», «Прогресу» та інших сумнівних фірм особисто подготовлені Марчуком з'явилися в антимаіозному комітеті Італії, і які лягли в основу розслідування справи Жукова, Мініна, Ангерта та компанії.

Жуков і члени його групи вже дали покази про здійснення 18 перевезень зброї. Російські мас–медіа досить детально розповідали про тісні «ділові» зв'язки Жукова з «бізнесменом», народним депутатом українського парляменту Андрієм Деркачем.

Як зазначив один із адвокатів Олександра Жукова, Андрій Деркач, який у 1994–1999 роках був радником Президента Кучми із зовнішньоекономічних питань, робив прямий і опосередкований тиск на Олександра Жукова, аби той дещо перепрофілював фірму «Синтез» і став посередником між українською збройовою фірмою «Прогрес» та українсько–панамським підприємством «Глобал Текнолоджіс Інтернешнл», якою керує «панамець, «парагваєць», «грек», «ізраїльтянин» Дмитро Стрешинський.

Як зазначається в одному із конфеденційних листів СБУ від 12 лютого 1993 року за номером 369 тодішній шеф СБУ Євген Марчук, застерігав президента України не співробітничати з фірмою «Глобал Текнолоджіс Інтернешнл», оскільки вона має репутацію фірми–порушника правил торгівлі на міжнародному ринку озброєнь. Проте і попередній і нинішній президенти України проігнорували подібні застереження. (Про це свідчить інший конфіденційний лист адміністрації президента від 19 лютого 1993 року за номером 203).

Мабуть це й підштовхнуло Марчука здати всю інформацію спецслужбам країн НАТО.

Про те, що українські спецслужби навели італійську поліцію на слід українсько–російських збройових дільків, шестеро з яких вже арештовано, підтвердили міжнародній пресі в італійських правоохоронних органах. Причому СБУ і персонально Марчук одержали від італійських властей подяки.

Але тут стає незрозумілим, чому Служба Безпеки України разом з іншими українськими правоохоронними органами самі не протидіяли збройовій афері, а переклали свої обов'язки на плечі закордонних правоохоронців, і чому на відміну від західних правоохоронців іще не заарештували й не засудили жодного українського кримінального магната? (За виключенням хіба, що колишнього мера Ужгорода пана Ратушняка). Чому Павла Лазаренка затримують і судять в Швейцарії та США, Жердицького в Німеччині, Мініна, Жукова і компанію в Італії, а томи заведені на «комерційну» діяльність Волкова припадають пилом в Бельгії? Чому Ігор Бакай знаходиться на волі, якщо податкові органи, самі ж зазначали про його причетність до незаконних дій «Нафтогазу України»? Чому за 10 років незалежності України ще й досі не створено фінансової розвідки на кшталт «Гафі», яка існує у всіх цивілізованих країнах?

До речі це питання стосується, впершу чергу, як голови так і секретаря РНБО. Адже створення міжнародного підрозділу «Гафі» дало б змогу на основі багатосторонніх домовленостей виявляти незаконні банківські рахунки і незаконні перекачування грошей нашими співвітчизниками? Інше питання, чи це на користь можновладцям? Ні для кого також не є таємницею, що цілі бандитські угруповання з їх родинами переселяються на захід і в Україні до них нікому немає діла? Зате лідерам політичної опозиції, зокрема, Юлії Тимошенко, Андрієві Шкілю білими нитками шиється кримінальна справа?

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Хто свиснув мільярди Чорномирдіна?

(Українська Правда)—Посол Росії в Україні Віктор Чорномирдін спростовує інформацію про наявність в нього мільярдного достатку. «Це дурність», сказав він у відповідь на повідомлення журналу «Форбс» про те, що він є одним з найбагатших людей світу.

«Кілька років назад писали, що в мене $5 млрд., а сьогодні пишуть, що у мене $1 млрд. 100 млн., куди ж поділися майже 4 мільярди? Хто їх свиснув?, питає Чорномирдін.

«Якщо «Форбс» покаже, де лежить мій мільярд долярів, то цей мільярд я віддам журналу, а 100 млн. – «Інтерфаксу», – пообіцяв Чорномирдін. «Інтерфаксу» повезло – кореспондент саме цього агентства першим задав питання Чорномирдіну про його грошики.

Минулого тижня американський журнал «Форбс» написав про те, що Чорномирдін увійшов до списку найбагатших людей світу. Достаток Чорномирдіна оцінили в $1,1 млрд.

До цього колишній глава російського уряду завжди спростовував повідомлення західної преси про розміри свого достатку.

До списку багатіїв не потрапив жодний українець, зате є і інші росіяни – в числі тих, що замикають список журналу «Форбс», – Михайло Ходорковський, Володимир Потанін, Володимир Богданов, Рем Вяхирєв, Роман Абарамович, Вагіт Алекперов, Михайло Фрідман. Троє останніх вперше попали до списку цього року.

За підрахунками журналу зараз у світі живе і працює рекордне число людей, чий достаток перевищує $1 млрд., – 538. Найбагатшою людиною залишається американець Білл Гейтс, фундатор імперії комп'ютерних програм «Майкрософт». Його особисте майно оцінюється журналом у $58,7 млрд., хоч у порівнянні з торішнім рівнем – $63 млрд. – воно впало в ціні на 7%.

Друге місце серед найбагатших світу посідає банкір–інвестор Уоррен Баффет, який «коштує» $32,3 млрд. «Форбс» зауважує, що обережна інвестиційна політика Баффета завжди була успішною, тому зараз американці, які шукають застосування своїм грошам, стежать буквально за кожним кроком банкіра.

Замикає цю трійку Пол Аллен, який разом з Гейтсом створив корпорацію «Майкрософт», і чий достаток зараз оцінюється у $30,4 млрд. Це менше, ніж рік тому. Втрата обох друзів викликані істотним падінням котування комп'ютерних компаній у США протягом останніх місяців.

Чорномирдін – не єдиний мільярдер, який очолював уряд своєї країни: 29 місце в переліку посідає найбагатший італієць, чинний голова Ради міністрів Італії Сильвіо Берлусконі, який володіє $10,3 млрд.

Без Тимошенко – краще, вважає Кучма

(Українська Правда)—Президент Леонід Кучма заявляє, що після відставки Юлії Тимошенко з посади віце–прем'єра з питань паливно–енергетичного комплексу робота цієї сфери стала набагато кращою.

Тимошенко жодного разу не проводила нараду без присутності засобів масової інформації, нагадує Кучма, «Вона працювала на ефір, а не займалася рішенням справ».

Енергетика зараз «працює стабільно», зокрема, частота в енергосистемі країни не опускається нижче за 50 герц, а головне – «колосально збільшилися надходження за електроенергію».

UCC - APC briefs Kilgour on D & D

(UCC - APC) A delegation of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council's Government Issues Committee briefed Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) and Edmonton Southeast MP David Kilgour on the Denaturalization and Deportation issue in his constituency, June 21.

The delegation, consisting of Committee Chair Marco Levytsky, Committee Member Eugene Harasymiw and Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Researcher Dr. Bohdan Klid informed Kilgour that when the government announced the D & D policy in 1995 as a means of dealing with so-called war criminals in Canada, it stated:

"The key criterion in all these proceedings is the existence of some evidence of individual criminality. If that cannot be proven, no proceedings will be considered."

Although courts have found respondents innocent of any war crimes, they are still subject to denaturalization because courts have also found, based upon a "balance of probabilities" that they may have misrepresented themselves upon entering Canada.

Speaking for both the provincial council and the national office, delegation members presented the UCC's position on D & D which states

"The UCC continues to assert that in cases where "evidence of individual criminality" is uncovered, the Government of Canada should prosecute such individuals before Canadian courts of criminal jurisdiction in accordance with Canadian criminal law and Canadian standards of evidence in criminal proceedings.

"According to the UCC, the Canadian Government should not resort to denaturalization and deportation proceedings to deal with the issue of Canadians suspected of war crimes during the Second World War since:

"(a) such proceedings are inadequate to determine a person's guilt or innocence as a war criminal;

"(b) such proceedings suppose, therefore, that another country will address this issue in Canada's place; and

"(c) applications for immigration and connected documents have been destroyed in large numbers over the years by government employees."

Harasymiw also presented Kilgour with a letter he had written members of cabinet in which he states that:

"The judicial approach to denaturalization and deportation has, on occasion, exhibited a lack of understanding of rules governing the application of evidence to cases of this nature. To help you understand the gravity of this point, we quote here from a critique of the (Helmut) Oberlander decision prepared by retired Justice Roger Salhany Q.C., Canada's number one expert on evidentiary process:

'I have reviewed the evidence presented at the hearing and his [Justice Mackay's] judgement and respectfully submit that the evidence does not support the conclusions reached by the learned judge."

'…[A] judge who admits and relies upon evidence which is not admissible in law makes an error in law. A judge who makes an erroneous finding of fact from the evidence presented and relies upon that fact to reach a conclusion errs in law. A judge who draws an unreasonable inference from the testimony of a witness and relies upon it in reaching his decision errs in law. In my view such errors in law were made in this case by the learned judge."

On May 2, Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan said she will recommend that cabinet consider Oberlander's denaturalization despite the fact that the court found him innocent of any war crimes.

Members of the delegation told Kilgour that, based upon the government's own criteria stated in the 1995 press release, proceedings in cases where there is no evidence of any war crimes should not even begin and where the court has found no evidence of any individual war crimes, the matter should be dropped immediately.

Based upon such criteria Oberlander's case should not even be brought before cabinet for consideration and he should certainly not be denaturalized, delegation members said.

UCC advances position on Bill C-331

(UCC National)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, which speaks for and on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community of Canada, at its Annual Meeting in Winnipeg on June 23, considered the provisions of Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, and by formal resolution supported the underlying principles contained therein, namely the recognition by the government of Canada for the injustices done to individuals of Ukrainian descent during the Internment operations from 1914-1920 and the restitution of confiscated assets and unpaid wages.

This action builds upon the UCC's long-held position that a resolution of the Internment issue must be concluded for the benefit of all Canadians who value the principles of a just society.

Judge to decide on Demjanjuk evidence lists

The Justice Department has objected to defense evidence suggesting that a retired autoworker accused of being a former Nazi death camp guard could have been mistaken for someone else, reports the Associated Press.

Lawyers for John Demjanjuk said a witness statement in a 1949 Soviet document raises the possibility that another person with the name Ivan Demjanjuk may have been the guard in question.

But in a filing June 19 to U.S. District Court, the government said the other-Demjanjuk document is not credible, because there is "no reliable corroborating evidence" and that the "source is demonstrably unreliable."

According to the government, the person interviewed in the Soviet document also reveals that his own "drinking during the war reached the point where he sold his pants to buy vodka."

The Justice Department is trying for the second time to strip Demjanjuk of his U.S. citizenship. The government argues that he fraudulently became a citizen by covering up his past as a guard at several Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Demjanjuk, now 81, once was accused of being a sadistic Nazi guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka death camp in Poland. However, his conviction in Israel was overturned, and the new case does not accuse him of any role at that death camp.

The case is before Judge Paul R. Matia, who recently heard seven days of testimony without a jury.

The government also has given the court a final exhibit list that includes Demjanjuk's testimony in a deposition taken in July.

The transcript, which had not yet been filed with the court, would become public record if Matia accepts it as a trial exhibit. The judge must rule on admissibility of well over 100 documents. There was no indication June 20 when he would make those decisions.

Demjanjuk did not attend his recent trial, so what he said when questioned by the Justice Department on July 12 could become his most recent public comments on his past. He denies aiding the Nazis and says he served in the Soviet Army, was captured in 1942 and remained in German prisoner of war camps.

His lawyers, in a concluding trial brief June 19, said: "There is no reported case upholding denaturalization in which the evidence is so completely based on contradictory, incomplete and unreliable archival material as we find here."

Over 30% would vote for Yushchenko bloc

(BBC Monitoring Service/Segodnya)—If the parliamentary election was held now, an electoral bloc led by the former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, could form one of the largest parliamentary factions. At least, such is the result of the opinion poll which was conducted by the Ukrainian Razumkov centre for economic and political research on 12-22 June.

According to the poll, which involved 1,940 respondents of voting age, if the right-wing parties (People's Movement of Ukraine, Ukrainian People's Movement, Reforms and Order) united around Yushchenko, then 32.2 per cent of the voters would support the bloc. A centrist bloc (People's Democratic Party, Agrarian Party, Party of Regions) headed by Yushchenko would be supported by 27.7 per cent of the voters. A total of 43 per cent would not vote for the former prime minister.

If the vote was held today, three parties would successfully overcome the 4-per-cent threshold. The Communists still hold the first place with 18.7 per cent of voters' support.

The People's Movement of Ukraine is in second place (4.8 per cent) while the third place is occupied by the United Social Democratic Party (4.5 per cent).

Next in line is the People's Democratic Party (3.9 per cent). Meanwhile, nearly one-quarter of the respondents (23.7 per cent) have not made their choice yet.

The Ukrainian News office will be closed from July 2nd to July 14th, 2001 in order to give the staff a summer break.

***

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Ситуація зі свободою слова в Україні

Сергій Грабовський

(Радіо «Свобода)—ожен журналіст (якщо він справді журналіст) має власну думку щодо українського інформаційного простору і ситуації зі свободою слова в Україні. А дехто не боїться висловити цю думку вголос.

Навряд чи хтось колись зуміє перевищити ступінь довершеності, яку мав інформаційний простір покійного Радянського Союзу. Цілісність, оперативність, професіоналізм... але в подачі або ж відвертої дезінформації, або дуже дозованої і часткової інформації.

Сьогодні нічого схожого на інформаційний простір радянської доби в Україні немає. І це викликає у багатьох сум. У одних – тому, що чергове рішення «партії влади» втілити у життя зараз вельми непросто – постійно плутаються під ногами різноманітні опозиційні видання. У інших – тому, що часом в Україні більший уплив, ніж вітчизняні, мають зарубіжні мас–медіа, а державні засоби масової інформації стають знаряддями пропаганди й агітації олігархічних та бюрократичних кланів.

Власне, як такі, мас–медіа в Україні (за винятком спеціялізованих) майже відсутні. Практично всі газети, телеканали, радіостанції є засобами впливу на аудиторію з боку фінансово–політичних структур або президентської адміністрації. Єдиний порятунок для споживача – це різниця (часом суттєва) в інтересах кланів та їхня незацікавленість приватним життям західних поп–зірок, внаслідок чого можна здибати фахово і правдиво зроблені матеріяли. Опозиційна ж преса, яка веде боротьбу під прапором захисту демократичних свобод, за цих обставин неодмінно стає не менш політично заанґажованою, і свою власну свободу виявляє хіба що у ставленні до влади.

Чи розуміє споживач загальну ситуацію з мас–медіа?

Якщо й не розуміє на рівні раціо, то принаймні, відчуває. Згідно з даними центру «Демократичні ініціятиви», за останні вісім років жодного разу оцінка українськими громадянами рівна довіри до мас–медіа не сягнула навіть «трієчки» за п'ятибальною системою. Зарубіжні журналістські організації тим часом упевнено поміщають українську владу й особисто президента Кучму до списку головних ворогів вільного слова. Як видається, не тільки тому, що глава держави, на думку багатьох, особисто причетний до переслідувань журналістів, а й – найперше – тому, що саме за роки президентства Леоніда Кучми й витворився політичний режим, у якому вільне слово може існувати лише у «шпаринах» між тілами могутніх кланів, а національний інформаційний простір є знаряддям захисту інтересів правлячих верств.

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Демонстранти перед посольством України в Канаді.

Демонстранти за европейський вибір

(ПГПКУБК)–Північноамериканська група підтримки Комітету «Україна без Кучми», провела 16–го червня демонстрації під гаслами «Ми – за европейський вибір», під посольством України в Канаді та посольством Росії в Канаді. Мета демонстрацій: привернути увагу громадськості до спроб нав'язати Україні білоруський варіянт, тобто повернути Україну до статусу російської колонії.

У згаданих демонстраціях взяли участь понад 50 осіб (переважна більшість – торонтці, а також 2 представники з чікаґської групи, США).

Демонстранти тримали транспаранти, гасла та скандували: «Европейський вибір для України!», «Геть від задрипанки Москви!», «Ні, слов'янському союзові!», «Росіє, відповідай за злочини супроти України!», «Росіє, руки геть від України!», «Ні, політичному теророві!», «Ні, русифікації в Україні!», «Свободу слова!», «Волю групі Самостійна Україна!», «Волю Русланові Антонику!», «Волю ув'язненим членам УНА–УНСО!», «Правду про Ґонґадзе!», тощо.

Демонстранти передали представникові посольства (відмовився назвати своє прізвище) України в Канаді звернення до президента України Леоніда Кучми, прем'єр–міністра України Анатолія Кінаха, голови Верховної Ради Івана Плюща. В останньому демонстранти висловили свої вимоги, виконання яких, на їхню думку, повинно б забезпечити незалежність Української держави.

Під російським посольством демонстранти тримали та вигукували антиросійські гасла: «Росіє, відповідай за злочини супроти України!», «Росіє, руки геть від України!», «Ні, слов'янському союзові», «Европейський вибір для України!», «Чорномирдін, геть з України!», «Ні, русифікації в Україні!», «Національне виявлення для меншин Росії!», «Українські школи, ЗМІ, національні церкви для українців Росії!», тощо.

Нижче подаємо текст «Звернення».

Президентові України Леонідові Кучмі
Прем'єр–Міністрові України Анатолію Кінаху
Голові Верховної Ради України Іванові Плющеві

Найвищі Державні достойники України!

Ми, представники української діяспори Канади та Америки, стурбовані встановленням в Україні авторитарного режиму та всіх його похідних: політичного терору, браку свободи слова та вільної думки, порушення прав людини, знищення незалежної преси, тощо.

Хочемо пригадати, що українська діяспора приклала немало зусиль для відродження Української держави та встановлення в ній деяких демократичних цінностей. Ми усвідомлюємо, що Україна може стати демократичною державою лишень у співдружності европейських народів. Тому надзвичайно важливим є забезпечити входження України в европейські структури.

Натомість останні події в Україні вказують на те, що під так званою багатовекторністю зовнішньої політики приховуються спроби нав'язати Україні білоруський варіянт, тобто під виліскою якогось слов'янського союзу повернути Україну до російської імперії, при цьому в статусі колонії.

Тому перед загрозою втрати державності України ми вимагаємо:

– надати перевагу західному векторові в зовнішній політиці України;

– оприлюднити усі таємні угоди між президентом України Л. Кучмою та прозидентом Росії В. Путіним, зокрема укладених після касетного скандалу;

– анулювати зі згаданих угод ті, які загрожують безпеці України; визнати нечинними договори між службами безпеки, правоохоронними органами, збройними силами України та Росії;

– заборонити продаж стратегічних об'єктів приватним фірмам, тим більше іноземним;

– заключати з Росією тільки ті договори, які вигідні для України; повернути Україні інфраструктури Чорноморського узбережжя;

– вивести з території України окупаційні (російські) війська;

– обмежити, а потім і заборонити діяльність ворожої для України, Української православної церкви Московського Патріярхату;

– максимально сприяти розвиткові українських національних церков;

– обмежити підприємницьку діяльність проросійських олігархічних кланів;

– розпочати процес дерусифікації в усіх ділянках державного культурно–освітнього життя (урядові установи, СБУ, МВС, МЗС України, ЗМІ, шкільництво, вищі навчальні заклади, тощо) та надати урядові дотації українській культурі, українським ЗМІ, українській книжці та ін.;

– заборонити комуністичну партію України, як політичну структуру, яка несе відповідальність за злочини супроти людства, ґеноцид українського народу та яка веде аґентурну роботу на користь Росії.

Хочемо наголосити, що при подальшому скочуванні України до тоталітаризму, до статусу російської колонії Ви відповідатимете – перед теперішніми та майбутніми поколіннями – за долю нашої Батьківщини.

Соціялісти хочуть відкликати керівника комісії по «справі Ґонґадзе» Лавриновича

(Українська Правда)—Фракція Соціялістичної партії ініціює питання висловлення недовіри керівнику тимчасової слідчої комісії парляменту у справі Ґонґадзе Олександру Лавриновичу, повідомив в 20–го червня УП один з лідерів СПУ Юрій Луценко.

Таке рішення було прийняте на засіданні фракції, і тепер соціялісти збираються підняти це питання у найближчий сесійний вівторок.

«Будемо вимагати розглянути на сесії це питання в зв'язку з торпедуванням роботи комісії», – сказав Луценко. З його слів, причина, через яку соціялісти ініціюють це питання – «невідповідність дій керівника комісії поставленим завданням. Протягом останнього місяця не було жодного засідання комісії: або немає кворуму, або зволікаються питання», – додав Луценко.

Через це, з його слів, було заблоковано прослуховування інших, крім першого, дисків із записами, зробленими майором Мельниченком. «На першому диску, який був заслуханий, а потім переданий до Генпрокуратури, вже відомі факти у справі Ґонґадзе. А на інших дисках – корупція, хабарництво, злочинна діяльність», – сказав Луценко.

Kuchma controls docile new cabinet

(JF Monitor)—The formation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh's cabinet of ministers is now complete.

President Leonid Kuchma selected only those whose loyalty to him personally or to the key figures in his entourage is indisputable. There would be no sense in debating whether Kinakh has had his own say in the forming of this cabinet. As long-time chairman of Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (UUIE), the organization that catapulted Kuchma into big politics, Kinakh is not expected to differ significantly with Kuchma over staffing issues. Kuchma is expected to appoint more of his people as state secretaries to oversee the work of ministries. He will therefore rarely face opinions different from his own, which was often the case with Yushchenko's cabinet.

Kinakh's new cabinet is exactly what Kuchma needs to regain control over the country after the tape scandal implicating him in serious legal violations and subsequent anti-presidential protests. This docile cabinet should also assist Kuchma's allies in the parliament elections scheduled for March 2002.

While pro-Kuchma centrist parties delegated their representatives into Kinakh's cabinet, there is no member of a left- or right-wing (nationalist) party in it. There are almost no new faces on Kinakh's team. Only Deputy Premier for Agriculture Leonid Kozachenko (who is believed to be close to Kuchma's key aide, the oligarch Oleksandr Volkov) and Environment Minister Serhiy Kurykin (who is the Number 2 man in the pro-Kuchma Green Party) have never served as ministers.

Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and the power ministers from Yushchenko's government, who report to the president rather than the premier (Defense Minister Oleksandr Kuzmuk, Interior Minister Ihor Smirnov and Emergencies Minister Vasyl Durdynets), were reappointed to serve under Kinakh. Other reappointments include Finance Minister Ihor Mityukov and Economics Minister Vasyl Rohovy, who are close to the United Social Democratic Party of oligarchs Hryhoriy Surkis and Viktor Medvedchuk; Agricultural Minister Ivan Kyrylenko of the pro-Kuchma Agrarian Party; and Justice Minister Syuzanna Stanik, the wife of State Television Company director Vadym Dolhanov, Kuchma's main propaganda tool. Oleh Dubyna, a former director of the Kryvorizhstal steelworks from Dnipropetrovsk region, was promoted from deputy to first deputy premier for industry. He will supervise energy and heavy industry. Volodymyr Semynozhenko of the Party of Regions, who served as science minister in 1996-1998, has returned to the government as deputy premier for science and culture. Semynozhenko represents the Kharkiv city industrial elite — Kuchma's long-time allies and one of the UUIE pillars. New Industry Minister Vasyl Hureyev served in several governments under Kuchma from 1995 to 1997.

The sensational appointment was that of Valeriy Pustovoytenko as transport minister. Pustovoytenko served as prime minister from 1997-1999 and then as leader of the one-time "party of power," the People's Democratic Party. That he agreed to supervise a relatively low-key department is a clear sign of the party's waning influence.

Another political heavyweight, Serhiy Tyhypko, chairman of Labor Ukraine — the party of the Dnipropetrovsk industrial elite — turned down Kinakh's offer of the deputy premier for economic reforms post. Tyhypko, who served in this position under Pustovoytenko, said that he would prefer to concentrate on preparing his party for the Rada elections. His refusal to take a prestigious post in Kinakh's cabinet underscores the general understanding of this cabinet as a temporary one, to last only until next year's elections.

Court grants small victory to Judge Zamkovenko

A Ukrainian court on June 15 granted a small victory to a judge who accuses the country's chief prosecutor of persecuting him for political motives, ruling that a search in the judge's offices and home was illegal, reported the Associated Press.

The Kyiv regional court decided that an appeal by judge Mykola Zamkovenko was justified and that law-enforcement agents had no right to search his premises and home without a special sanction from state prosecutor Mykhailo Potebenko.

Although Potebenko was abroad at the time, the court ruled that he was continuing to perform his duties and thus was the only official able to sanction the search.

Agents raided Zamkovenko's home and office in late May, confiscating computer software and files, after Potebenko's office launched a criminal case against the judge over alleged abuse of authority. Zamkovenko allegedly failed to submit case materials for review by appeals institutions.

Zamkovenko, who heads a district court in Kyiv, earlier this year ordered the release of opposition leader and former deputy premier Yulia Tymoshenko, who had been detained on corruption charges.

Zamkovenko has described the case against him as political and an attempt to intimidate other judges. The chief prosecutor's office denies that its move is political.

Crimea Communists make waves to restore Stalin statue

(BBC Monitoring/Izvestiya)—Whether to restore the monument to Iosif Stalin in Sevastopol, that is the question that is going to be referred to the next session of the Sevastopol city council. The leader's local disciples have already collected 7,500 signatures in favour of restoring the monument.

Ten public organizations have been collecting signatures since December last year. It is proposed to install the monument in the same spot from which it was toppled after the 20th CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] Congress — the station square, obviously in order to ensure that every visitor to the city can gain a clear impression of the political predilections of some Sevastopol residents. The piquancy of the question lies in the fact that a memorial to the victims of the deportation of the Crimean Tatar people, which was carried out on Stalin's orders in 1944, was recently erected in the same square.

Even the city council chairman, Vasiliy Parkhomenko, the leader of Sevastopol's Communists, admits that the Crimean Tatars would react violently to the restoration of the monument. However, he says he cannot ignore the will of 7,500 voters. The city council is considering erecting monuments to [Russia's] Catherine II, and also to [Cossack legend] Ivan Mazepa and a Crimean Tatar national hero whose name Parkhomenko has forgotten.

"It is difficult to pass an unequivocal decision on this question," Vasiliy Mikhaylovich comments, "and we are in no hurry. Most natives of Sevastopol remember clearly how much Stalin did to restore the city in the post-war years and would like to pay tribute to him. But I think a decision should be made on this question only after a city-wide referendum."

Seventy per cent of the city council members are Communists. They will have to decide whether it is worth spending money on a referendum and restoring the monument. As for the money for restoration, it can only be collected by the public. Isaak Sapozhnikov, the chairman of the local movement to study Stalin's legacy, is sure that a considerable proportion of the money will come from businessmen, among whom, in his words, "there are still some honest people".

"The Communist faction is planning to raise the problem of restoring the monument at the session on the same basis as the questions of the role of the Russian language in Sevastopol and the status of the city. Unfortunately, we do not know what happened to the monument after it was dismantled, but we believe it remained in the city. It is this sculpture we would like to erect."

Despite the unanimity of the party comrades, there are many opponents of this idea in Sevastopol. They include veterans who saw Stalin in the flesh, and also people who witnessed the implementation of the decisions of the famous 20th CPSU Congress.

Ivan Yermakov, the former city mayor and head of the Working Ukraine faction in the city council, believes that far more signatures could be collected against the idea of restoring the monument:

"First of all there will be the Crimean Tatars, who will never forgive Stalin for the deportation, during which their forebears were dumped on the bare steppes, and many died along the way. If certain people are trying to create a political buzz around their names ahead of political elections, they have not chosen the worthiest of methods: The provoking of aggression in Sevastopol could cost us all only too much."

Ukraine to abolish registration of foreigners

(BBC Monitoring Service/UNIAN)—From July 1, all foreigners legally entering Ukraine will be registered only at the state border checkpoints by servicemen of the state committee for protection of the state border.

The foreigners who legally temporarily stay in Ukraine will no more be required to additionally register with the police.

This is provided by President Leonid Kuchma's decree "On additional measures to implement the human right to freedom of movement and free choice of abode" from June 15. This decree was issued to support the constitutional right to freedom of movement and free choice of abode and to fulfil Ukraine's international obligations.

According to the decree, by Aug. 1 the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has to submit to the Supreme Council a draft Ukrainian state migration programme for 2002-2005.

By Oct. 1, the Cabinet of Ministers has to submit proposals on gradual abolishment of the compulsory order of choosing abode (the registration) to comply with the Ukrainian constitution's provisions guaranteeing human rights and freedoms of citizens.

Vitrenko attackers sentenced to 15 years

The Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Court on June 14 sentenced two brothers, Serhiy and Volodymyr Ivanchenko, as well as Andrei Samoilov to 15 years in prison each for organizing and carrying out a grenade attack on presidential candidate Natalya Vitrenko on Oct. 2, 1999, Interfax reported. The court found Serhiy Ivanchenko guilty of organizing the attack, while Volodymyr Ivanchenko and Andrei Samoilov were found guilty of throwing two RGD-5 grenades into a crowd and injuring some 40 people, including Vitrenko. Ivanchenko repeatedly denied his guilt during the seven-month trial, accusing Ukraine's special services of fabricating the case in order to discredit Oleksandr Moroz.

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Visit a triumph despite media

His Holiness John Paul II's historic visit of Ukraine will remain a majestic triumph despite the attempts to denigrate it by groups which should not even call themselves Christian, and some pretty awful reporting by the mainstream western media.

Instead of concentrating upon the Pope's message of hope and joy in the rebirth of Ukraine, and the sufferings the people and the Church have endured during the years of totalitarian oppression, many in the media decided to play the Moscow card, exaggerating the significance of the opposition of the Russian Orthodox Church to the visit.

Typical was a story by By Susan B. Glasser of the Washington Post Foreign Service, which was carried by many other newspapers, including the Edmonton Journal, after the second day of the visit. The story focussed almost exclusively on the "Orthodox" protests against the visit as if the "Orthodox" of Ukraine were one united mass. Not only did the story not bother to differentiate between Ukrainian Orthodox and Russian Orthodox, Moscow Patriarchate and Kyiv Patriarchate, nor did it bother to mention that there were three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, two of which — The Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church — welcomed the visit with great enthusiasm, it identified Moscow's Patriarch Aleksey as the head of the Church in Ukraine as well as in Russia.

Polls conducted before the Pope's visit noted that a majority of Ukraine's population approved of the visit and only a small minority — 6.8 percent disapproved of it, while a miniscule proportion — 0.4% intended to protest it. And how a Church which colluded with a totalitarian regime, which is headed by a man identified as a former agent of the KGB, and which recently bestowed one of its highest honours upon the neo-Communist dictator of Belarus can even call itself Christian, escapes us?

Then there was the New York Times story which noted that the Pope will "will pray at the monument commemorating the death of more than 30,000 Jews shot by Nazis at the infamous Babi Yar, before leaving for Lvov (sic) in western Ukraine adding: "Local sensibilities also mandated a stop at Bykovnia, the site of mass shootings of Ukrainian nationalists by the secret police during Stalin's terror." So, a place where 200,000 Ukrainian victims of Stalin's terror are buried is only a matter of "local sensibilities", while the killing field of 30,000 Jews is presumed to have much more significance.

But, by far, the most vile, malicious and sleazy example of the grossest form of yellow journalism belongs to The Independent of the United Kingdom. Reporter Patrick Cockburn offered the following:

"The Pope's embrace of the Greek Catholics, which survived underground during Soviet times, will also cause controversy because of the church's role during the Second World War. Its charismatic leader at the time was Andrij Sheptytsky, the Metropolitan or head of the Greek Catholic Church for a quarter of a century, who was accused by Russia of supporting the German occupation and a locally recruited SS division, the Galicia.

"'We greet the victorious German army that has already taken control over the whole of our region with joy and gratitude for liberation from the enemy,' Metropolitan Sheptytsky is quoted as writing in July, 1941, according to Vladislav Petrushko, a Russian theological specialist. He claims that Sheptytsky, along with other Ukrainian leaders, wrote to Hitler on 14 January 1942, pledging their loyalty. He also congratulated the Germans for capturing Kiev."

Of course, no mention was made of the thousands of Jews Metropolitan Sheptytsky saved by giving them shelter at the risk of his own life.

And the headline on this piece of hate literature? Brace yourselves:

"Pope upsets Ukraine by beatifying priests with Nazi links."

We believe this calls for legal action.

Issues raised by the Papal Visit to Ukraine

John Paul II's commitment to defending human rights and religious freedom can also be perceived as a threat to a leadership of a church that has a long history of collaborating with governments that used oppression and persecution to attain their political goals.

Isn't it ironic that the adherents of the political party that institutionalized atheism are now expressing concern for the feelings of Christians? Yet, that is exactly what the Communist Party of Ukraine has done — it has protested against the visit of pope John Paul II to Ukraine because its members feel that the pope's presence will violate the feelings of Orthodox Christians. The presence of Catholic communities is perceived as an intrusion into the canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox church which, the argument goes, can only result in inter-denominational tensions. Moscow Patriarch Alexei II objects to Catholic presence in Ukraine and Russia on the same grounds. What's more, discounting the fact that the papal visit is a Ukrainian state matter, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church has stated that the pontiff's visit should be postponed until ecumenic relations between Rome and Moscow will have been normalized, and until the issue of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will have been settled. The high level officials of the Russian Orthodox Church, who have said that the conflict between Orthodox and Catholic communities in Ukraine over church property will flare up again, have failed to add that the Ukrainian Catholic churches "nationalized" by Stalin in 1946, with possibly two exceptions, have been returned to their Catholic communities during the early 1990's. They also fail to say that from 1946 to 1989 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was outlawed by the Soviet government and therefore had to go underground.

Why is the visit of an old Roman Catholic bishop so threatening? Well, for one thing, it upsets the notion that the East, particularly the former Soviet republics, ought to be perceived as wholly Orthodox, as the exclusive canonical territory of the Russian Orthodox Church. After all, maintaining the old imperial myth of an Orthodox East is politically advantageous to both the political and ecclesiastic power elites. The reality, however, is a little more complex. According to Dr. O. Gerus, a history professor at University of Manitoba, "Ukraine is a synthesis of Western and Eastern civilizations. In religious life this synthesis is expressed in pluralism." Of the 49 million Ukrainians, some 20 million are Orthodox. Although the Russian Orthodox Church, (recently renamed the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, but loyal to the Patriarch of Moscow), has 9,049 communities in Ukraine — Orthodoxy is far from being monolithic. There are two dissident, independent Orthodox Churches, who have left the protectorate of the Patriarch of Moscow: the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church with its 1,015 communities, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church proclaiming itself as the Kyiv Patriarchy, headed by Archbishop Filaret, (who was excommunicated and defrocked by Alexei II), which is supported by 2,781 communities. Within this "Orthodox" territory a large number of Protestant churches, largely Baptist, have established vibrant communities which are best known for their effective humanitarian aid programs. More recently, small Judaic and Islamic communities have sprung up in the southern regions of Ukraine. Like everywhere else, new religious movements have proliferated in post-communist Ukraine, attracting the young and the religiously naive. In the western regions of Ukraine the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the largest among the community of Eastern Catholic Churches, has the support of approximately 5 million members, which translates into 3,317 communities. The Roman Catholic church, on the other hand, has 807 communities in Ukraine. However, the number of people who are indifferent to religion is greater than the membership of any one denomination.

To understand the situation in Ukraine it is also important to realize, as the late Dr. B.R. Bociurkiw, founder of the Institute of Soviet and East European Studies at Carlton University put it that "believers are overwhelmingly concentrated in the areas which did not belong to the Soviet Union before 1939".

Of the independent Ukrainian Orthodox churches, the Autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church is now in the position of being integrated into the community of Orthodox churches aligned with the Ecumenic Patriarch of Constantinople, that is the Orthodox Church of the West. If the Ukrainian Orthodox Church headed by Archbishop Filaret could reach an understanding with the Autocephalous Church, it would open the way to a union of the two Ukrainian Orthodox churches, which in its turn, would probably lead to an exodus of a significant number of Ukrainians from the official Russian/Ukrainian Orthodox Church because a united Ukrainian Orthodox church recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople would be seen as a trustworthy guardian of the Ukrainian cultural and spiritual identity. As neither the Synod of Bishops of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church, nor Archbishop Filaret have made any negative statements about Pope John Paul II, it can be construed that at least some of the Ukrainian Orthodox are turning westward, away from the historic influence of Russia. In that light, the pope's visit may well motivate people to re-evaluate their past assumptions.

John Paul II's commitment to defending human rights and religious freedom can also be perceived as a threat to a leadership of a church that has a long history of collaborating with governments that used oppression and persecution to attain their political goals. This tacit and sometimes not so tacit, complicity of the Russian Orthodox Church in the persecution of Ukrainian Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians has robbed the ROC of its moral power. The beatification of 28 Ukrainian Catholic martyrs, most of whom died in Soviet labour camps, raises the international profile of this small Catholic church, and more importantly, it recognizes the moral power of that church. The beatification is the Ukrainians' testament of faith in God, of faith in human dignity. That is something that neither political influence, nor imperial ambition can produce.

Nevertheless, some Ukrainians are not as enthusiastic about the pope's visit as one might have expected. Deeply disappointed with Pope Paul VI's *Ostpolitik, especially the Vatican's ecumenic dialogue with Mos*cow, which sometimes occurred at the cost of the interests of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and troubled by the history of both Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox attempts at assimilating Ukrainian Catholics — some people approach the pope's visit with caution. Some Ukrainians, for example, are troubled by the fact that the first Liturgy celebrated by the pope on Ukrainian soil was the Latin Liturgy. Is this a diplomatic oversight, or is this some sort of message? — they're asking. Their scepticism is based on the fact that in the past, some Roman Catholics failed to understand, that when in 1596 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church chose to become a member of the Catholic community of 21 churches, it did so, not because it wanted to be integrated into the Latin church, but because it wanted to share in the public moral support of the pope, without changing neither its Byzantine (or Greek) Liturgy, nor its collegial structure. On the other hand, because of the Ukrainians' insistence on the Byzantine Liturgy, the Orthodox Church claims, that the UGCC had become a schismatic church and as such, should either return to its "Mother Church" i.e. the Orthodox Church, preferably to the Moscow Patriarchate, or consent to being completely Romanized. As none of these arguments respect historical truth, most scholars say that it is time to put them aside, in order to concentrate on the process of renewal.

However, even those who distrust the Vatican curia, have to admit that John Paul II has that kind of respect and that kind of moral authority, that can move people to look at their priorities in life more thoughtfully. After all this is the man who in a sermon during his 1984 visit to Winnipeg's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of St Volodymyr and Olha said: "Let everyone remember, that knowing, respecting, preserving and developing the very rich spiritual and ritualistic traditions of Eastern Churches is very important to the preservation of the fullness of Christian traditions and to the achievement of unity of the Christian East and the Christian West. Your Ukrainian heritage and your Byzantine spirituality, theology and liturgy provide a good background for discharging your important duties in the process of reconciliation.." With that kind of encouragement and under the leadership of the newly minted Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, it is more than probable that the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will play an important role in the development of the new post-communist society of Ukraine.

Alexandra Hawryluk writes a regular feature for Radio Canada International in Montreal.

Pope concludes historic visit to Ukraine

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powerful to destroy mankind", John Paul II cautioned those in power about the temptation to create a society without God. Mindful of Ukraine's pains in the 20th century, he alluded to "the terrible years of the Soviet dictatorship and the dreadful famine at the beginning of the 1930s", the victims of Nazism, and the subsequent regime's trampling of the most elementary human rights.

"The older among you remember with nostalgia the time when Ukraine was independent," said Pope John Paul.

"After this fairly short time came the terrible years of the Soviet dictatorship and the dreadful famine at the beginning of the 1930s, when Ukraine, 'the breadbasket of Europe', was no longer able to feed its own children, who died by the millions. And how can we forget the host of your fellow citizens who perished during the war of 1941 to 1945 against the Nazi invasion? Unfortunately, liberation from Nazism did not also mean liberation from the communist regime, which continued to trample on the most elementary human rights, deporting defenceless citizens, imprisoning dissidents, persecuting believers, and even attempting to erase the very idea of freedom and independence from the consciousness of the Ukrainian people. Happily, the great turning-point of 1989 finally permitted Ukraine to regain her freedom and full sovereignty."

His Holiness called the Ukrainian nation to keep the values of the Gospel in their life which will help them *to build "a modern and tolerant,* open and fraternal society". In this regard, he appreciated the Preamble to the Constitution of Ukraine which reminds citizens of their "responsibility before God." For a true "civilization of love" to develop, the Pope particularly called attention to the need for the government to recognize theological education.

Once a philosophy professor himself, the Pope clearly felt eager to engage Ukrainian intellectuals and twice quoted from the Ukrainian philosopher Hryhoriy Skovoroda.

"Everyone is called to make his own contribution in a spirit of courage and confidence", said the Pope. "The Catholic Church stands at the side of all people of good will and supports their efforts in the service of the common good."

June 24

Pope John Paul II's first Mass in Ukraine demonstrated his broad appeal to Christians of many languages and nations gathered at Chayka Airport near Kyiv on the morning of June 24.

As he has since his arrival in Ukraine, the Pope spoke mostly in Ukrainian but nine other European languages were used for the prayers of the faithful and the final greetings. Dotting the crowd of a 100,000 were banners welcoming the Pope in Polish, Romanian, and Russian. One organizer said that the rain, the distance from Kyiv, and heavy security kept more people from attending the Mass. .

Most important of all was the use of Ukrainian in the Latin Rite liturgy. "Until now the Ukrainian texts for the Latin Rite have only been provisional", says Fr. Kszystof Homa, a Jesuit teaching at the Lviv Theological Academy. "The use of these texts by the Holy Father now gives them a new status."

The ecumenical nature of the Mass was clear from the beginning when the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kyiv-Zhytomyr Jan Purvinsky welcomed the many Orthodox, Protestants and non-Christians who had come "out of respect for the moral authority of the Pope". Many Byzantine-Rite Catholic bishops joined the Pope on the large altar platform symbolically shaped like a ship. President Kuchma and his principal ministers sat in the first row of the audience.

As he has before, in his homily the Pope drew upon the history of the Church of Kyiv-Rus and its origin at a time when "the Church of Constantinople and the Church of Rome were still in full communion." The use of both Latin and Greek in the ritual parts of Sunday's Mass highlighted this common heritage.

Celebrating the Feast of St. John the Baptist, in his sermon the Pope recalled the baptism of the nation under Prince Volodymyr in 988. "The Baptism which took place here, in Kyiv, inaugurated the thousand-year history of Christianity in the lands of today's Ukraine and in the whole region."

The Pope likened Kyiv itself to St. John the Baptist, the "precursor of the Lord" among many peoples. From Kyiv, the Gospel was brought forth "in the land of the ancient Rus, then in the lands of Eastern Europe and, later, beyond the Urals, in the lands of Asia."

"He is a model of uprightness and courage in defending the truth, for which he was prepared to pay in his person, even to the point of imprisonment and death.

"Land of Ukraine, drenched with the blood of martyrs, thank you for the example of fidelity to the Gospel which you have given to Christians the world over! So many of your sons and daughters walked in complete fidelity to Christ; many of them remained constant even to the supreme sacrifice. May their witness serve as an example and a stimulus for the Christians of the third millennium," said the pontiff."

In addition to the ritual bread and wine, gifts brought forward at the offertory included handwritten prayerbooks from the underground church and a painting of a Franciscan sister who founded an ecumenical community that works with blind children.

Immediately following Mass, Pope John Paul prayed the Angelus with the faithful present. In meditations made before reciting this prayer, he noted that "Mary, the first and the most perfect disciple of her Son, is a figure and a model of the Church which welcomes the word of the Lord in faith. Her protection has accompanied every step of the Christian community in Ukraine ever since the Baptism of Rus' in 988."

"Bathed by the great river of faith, Ukraine thus became a Christian land and, at the same time, a Marian country. This can be seen in the numerous shrines which express the deep love of the faithful for their heavenly Mother. ... To Mary's heavenly intercession I entrust this my pastoral visit and all those whom I shall meet during these days. In a special way I ask her, Mother of the Church, to hasten the steps of all Christians towards full communion."

Meeting with the Ukrainian Catholic Episcopate at lunch at the Apostolic Nunciature, Pope John Paul II commented on the flourishing number of vocations in Ukraine and emphasized the need for "first-rate educators and highly trained teachers, who can ensure a solid intellectual and spiritual foundation for the priests of tomorrow." He also encouraged the bishops to issue a comprehensive catechism in Ukrainian.

Praising the exemplary relations between the Greek Catholic Church and the Latin Catholic Church during the communist persecution, the Pope paid tribute to the bishops predecessors for their fidelity among trials, marking out by name Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Cardinal Joseph Slipyj.

"How can we fail to recall, among them, the Servant of God Metropolitan Andrii Sheptytsky? My revered predecessor, Pope Pius XII, declared that his noble life was cut short 'not so much by his advanced age, but by the sufferings of his soul as Pastor, struck down with his flock'. Together with him, I recall Cardinal Joseph Slipyj, first Rector of the Greek Catholic Theological Academy of Lviv, happily reopened in recent times. This heroic confessor of the faith suffered the hardship of imprisonment for 18 long years."

In closing, the Pope made reference to the importance of unity among Catholics: "This deep experience of communion within the Catholic Church will doubtless stimulate appropriate forms of fraternal cooperation with our Orthodox brethren. ... Ecumenical dialogue must therefore be an indispensable priority for believers and for the Churches in Ukraine."

That evening, Pope John Paul II met with representatives of the Pan-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations in the foyer of the Palace of the National Philharmonic of Kyiv.

The meeting was conducted in an informal style under the direction of Cardinal Husar, and ended with the presentation to the Pope of his own image embroidered with coral in the Ukrainian tradition. Present here were the heads of the 16 largest churches and religious organizations in Ukraine.

The only key religious leader absent was Kyiv Metropolitan Orthodox Archbishop Vladimir, who is obedient to Moscow's Orthodox Patriarchate.

After greetings by Cardinal Husar and an address by the Holy Father, remarks were given by Cardinal Marian Jaworksi of the Roman Catholic Church, Metropolitan Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, Metropolitan Mefodij of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Hryhory Komendant of the Association of Evangelical Baptists, Chief Rabbi of Kyiv Yaakov Dov Bleich, and Mufti Tamin Achmed Mohammed Mutach of the Moslems of Ukraine.

In his address, Pope John Paul called Ukraine "a natural bridge not only between East and West, but also between the peoples who have been here together for several centuries."

I wish to recall the significant presence of the Jews, who form a community which is solidly rooted in Ukrainian society and culture," he said.

"They too suffered injustices and persecutions for having remained faithful to the religion of their ancestors. Who can ever forget the immense tribute of blood which they paid to the fanaticism of an ideology propounding the superiority of one race over others? Here, in Kyiv, at Babyn Yar, during the Nazi occupation countless people, including over 100,000 Jews, were killed within a few days. This is one of the most atrocious of the many crimes which the history of the last century unhappily has had to record.

"May the memory of this episode of murderous frenzy be a salutary warning to all. What atrocities is man capable of, when he fools himself into thinking that he can do without God! The desire to set himself up in opposition to God and to combat every form of religion showed itself in an overbearing way also in atheistic and Communist totalitarianism. In this city, this memory lives on in the monuments to the victims of Holodomor, to those killed at Bykivnia, to those who died in the Afghanistan war, to mention but a few. May the memory of such painful experiences help humanity today, especially the younger generation, to reject every form of violence and to grow in respect for human dignity, by safeguarding the fundamental rights rooted in it, not least the right to religious freedom.

"To the memory of the massacre of the Jews, I wish to add that of the crimes committed by the political power against the Muslim community in Ukraine. I am thinking in particular of the Tartars deported from the Crimea to the Asiatic Republics of the Soviet Union, who now wish to return to their land of origin. In this regard, allow me to express the hope that through open, patient and persevering dialogue suitable solutions will be found, always in a climate of sincere tolerance and practical cooperation for the common good."

Cardinal Husar said the council was established "to provide a forum for encounters, for the discussion of *common problems, and to present* common concerns to the government. The Council also takes measures to ensure that the religious or-

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Russian archpriest joins ceremony

(CWNews.com)—In a break from the posture of the Russian Orthodox hierarchy, an Orthodox archpriest from Moscow traveled to Lviv to participate in the papal ceremonies of June 27.

Father Ioan Sviridov, a professor a the State University of Moscow, took part in the beatification ceremonies in Lviv on June 27, which were conducted in the Byzantine rite.

The Orthodox archpriest said that he had come to Lviv on his own initiative, after hearing Pope John Paul II deliver his message to the people of Kyiv. He explained that he did not want to "miss out on an event of such historic importance."

Again clearly varying from the line established by the Moscow Patriarchate, Father Sviridov said that "the presence of John Paul II in Ukraine, far from dividing Ukrainians, will instead help them toward a better mutual understanding."

Most Ukrainians approve of visit

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Oleksandr Razumkov Center of Economic and Political Studies has found in a poll held from April 20 to May 3 among 2,000 adult Ukrainians that 53.2 percent of respondents approve of Pope John Paul II's visit to Ukraine, while 4.4 percent said they want to listen to the pope during a mass, Interfax reported on June 23

Of those polled, 31.1 percent said they are indifferent to the pontiff's visit, 6.8 percent said they disapprove of the visit, and 0.4 percent announced that they intend to participate in protest actions against the visit.

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Pope concludes historic visit

Cont. from P. 7

ganizations live together in peace and avoid all conflicts in their relations. In this spirit several declarations have already been signed which, in our opinion, have had a positive impact on religious relations in Ukraine. The potential of an organization such as our Council has by no means been exhausted."

He added that, In Ukraine, all the churches and religious organizations enjoy the same rights and are equal before the law.

"This is a great achievement of the Ukrainian state, even if some things remain to be done. In particular, the churches and religious communities that were persecuted, repressed and exiled from society during the time of the communist dictatorship await from the state full juridical rehabilitation and the recognition of their educational institutions and other structures that serve society. For our part, the new circumstances of coexistence of the religious communities compel us to explore more deeply the sources of peace and tolerance that are found within our own religious traditions, and to give them expression in our actions and in our relationships."

Patriarch Filaret called the referred to John Paul as "Pope the Peacemaker who seeks to cure the wounds both of the Church and of all mankind."

"We hope that your visit to Ukraine will contribute to the Orthodox-Catholic dialogue rather than to deepening the divide as Moscow is predicting. We will be happy to testify that Orthodox and Catholic believers can and must live like brothers and sisters in the spirit of Christian love, and your visit will contribute to this.

"The Moscow Patriarchate fears proselytism that has been denounced by all Christian Churches. We believe that your stay in Ukraine has nothing to do with proselytism but, on the contrary, will help towards reconciliation between Orthodox and Catholic believers and the establishment of Christian love.

"As of today, our Churches remain divided, but we pray every day to the head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ for a reunion of God's Holy Churches and we dream about reaching that unity. We need unity in faith and in truth."

In closing, Patriarch Filaret said:

"Once again, I welcome you on behalf of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate which seeks to unite Ukrainian Orthodoxy in a single Ukrainian Orthodox Church. I sincerely hope that your historic visit to Ukraine is blessed and that it bears good fruit."

Following the meeting, the Pope visited one of two sites of 20th century horrors near Kyiv: Bykivnia, a pine forest with one of the largest mass graves of Stalinist totalitarianism in Ukraine. Up to 200,000 Ukrainians who were killed in Soviet jails from 1929 to 1941, are buried there. He stood in prayer for two minutes before a 20-foot bronze cross.

Yellow ribbons around tree trunks mark the spots in the Bykivnia Woods where the victims' bodies were dumped. Some trees bear simple wooden plaques listing victims' names.

June 25

Joining hundreds of thousands of Eastern Christians in Kyiv on the morning of June 25, Pope John Paul II emphasized the importance of different traditions within the universal church. "There is a plurality of traditions, rites, canonical disciplines, which far from undermining the unity of the Body of Christ, on the contrary enrich it with the gifts brought by each one."

Repeatedly quoting Jesus prayer for unity in the Gospel of John "that they may all be one", the Pope exhorted Cardinal Husar and Cardinal Jaworksi to continue their cooperation.

"Your living side by side in charity should become a model of a unity that exists within a legitimate pluralism and has its guarantee in the Bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter."

The Pontiff recognized the Kyivan land as the wellspring of numerous witnesses of Christian holiness. For him, the Ukrainian Church's history of martyrdom and its most recent period testify that the spiritual roots of Christianity in Ukraine are deep and able to face present challenges.

Now is the time, said the Pope, for the country's citizens to commit themselves, "as Metropolitan Sheptytsky liked to recall, to the goal of rebuilding their own home. "For ten years, your country has been a free and independent state. These ten years have shown that despite the temptations linked to crime and corruption, its spiritual roots are strong."

"My heartfelt hope is that Ukraine will continue to draw strength from the ideals of personal, social and ecclesial morality, of service of the common good, of honesty and sacrifice, not forgetting the gift of the Ten Commandments. The dynamic quality of your country's faith and its Church's capacity for rebirth are surprising: the roots of its past have become a pledge of hope for the future."

During the ceremony, John Paul II blessed the first stones of the new Catholic cathedral of Kyiv, as well as those of other buildings that Greek Catholics will build in the Ukrainian capital, having lost all their churches during the Soviet period. They have only recovered a small number of these churches.

Shortly before leaving Kyiv for Lviv, and accompanied by Chief Rabbi Bleich, the Pope prayed in Babi Yar, the ravine in which more than 30,000 people, the majority Jews, were seized over one week in Kyiv and executed by Nazi troops.

John Paul II recollected himself for a few minutes at the memorial and said a prayer for the victims. Then, turning to the rabbi, he exclaimed: "God bless you."

"Thanks to the Pontiff's efforts, one can hope that tragedies like these will not be repeated," the Jewish leader later told the press.

That evening the Pontiff received a tumultuous welcome when he arrived in Lviv. He seemed more cheerful than in Kyiv, as his white, high-sided "pope-mobile" bumped along Lviv's cobblestone streets.

Hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets waving Ukrainian and Polish flags.

June 26

A huge crowd attended Pope John Paul's first open-air mass in Lviv.

Canadian bishops praise Papal Visit to Ukraine

(Zenit.org)—The president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on June 26 addressed a message to the faithful describing the Holy Father's visit to the cradle of Orthodoxy as "a great gift of grace and God's Providence.

In the message, Bishop Gerald Wiesner of Prince George recalls that this is "the third Pope to set foot on Ukrainian territory," but "the first to do so voluntarily, since during the first millennium, Popes Clement I and Martin I had gone to the Crimea in exile."

"For the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which suffered and endured a catacomblike experience under Stalinist persecution, this is a moment of realization of the promise that our Lord would remain with us to the end of time," the message states. "As a Church that is currently renewing its efforts of bringing anew the Gospel message in Ukraine and throughout the world, we wish to express our joy and hope on this most happy occasion."

The Canadian bishops remind the faithful that the Holy Father's pilgrimage to Ukraine "marks yet another particular moment in the journey towards the restoration of unity among all Christians, especially assisting in the reconciliation and unity between Catholics and Orthodox."

The bishops "commend the members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church for their efforts to initiate dialogue with their Orthodox brothers and sisters, and encourage their ongoing commitment through prayer, word and action, to fullness of unity in Jesus Christ."

The episcopal message reminds Canadians that many "people from Ukraine began to emigrate to Canada just over a century ago, bringing with them their language, customs and faith. At the urging of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, Ukrainian Catholics in Canada received their first eparch in the person of Nykyta Budka, a young pioneer bishop, who was enthroned in Winnipeg on the feast of the Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception) in 1912."

Under Bishop Budka's leadership, "the Ukrainian Catholic Church became well established throughout Canada. We are happy to see in his beatification among the Ukrainian martyrs, the Church's recognition of his sanctity and zeal for the Gospel."

Greetings to the Ukrainian Community celebrating the Historic Visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Ukraine.

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Pope concludes historic visit

The turnout was estimated at between 300,000 and 600,000 people. Tens of thousands of Poles who traveled from neighboring Poland swelled the numbers of Ukrainian Roman Catholics. Poland's Primate, Cardinal Josef Glemp, the head of the church, was among the attendees.

Scores of Polish red-and-white flags mingled with Ukrainian blue-and-yellow emblems in the hippodrome racetrack where the mass was held. Hundreds of white-and-yellow Vatican flags were also waved by an enthusiastic crowd under a bright blue sky and warm sunshine.

After the Latin-Rite mass, the pope beatified two Polish 19th-century priests, Archbishop Jozef Bilczewski and Father Zygmunt Gorazdowski, who lived in what is now western Ukraine. Beatification is the next-to-last stage in the process of achieving sainthood.

In his sermon, the pope recalled that when Bilczewski was installed as archbishop, with him at the same ceremony were two prominent churchmen, Polish Bishop Jazef Pelczar and Archbishop Andriy Sheptytsky, one of the most revered figures in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The pope recited this part of his sermon in both Polish and Ukrainian.

"Their union remains a sign and a call for the faithful of their respective flocks, summoned by their example to build the communion which remains threatened by the memory of past experiences and by the prejudices stirred up by nationalism. Today, in praising God for the indomitable fidelity to the Gospel of these, his servants, let us feel ourselves gently moved to recognize the infidelities to the Gospel of not a few Christians of both Polish and Ukrainian origin living in these parts. It is time to leave behind the sorrowful past."

There was prolonged applause when the pope made an appeal for unity between the Polish and Ukrainian peoples.

"May the purification of historical memories lead everyone to work for the triumph of what unites over what divides, in order to build a future of mutual respect, fraternal cooperation, and true solidarity. Today, Archbishop Jozef Bilczewski and his companions Pelczar and Sheptytsky exhort you: be united, be united."

On his way to a youth rally the afternoon, the Pope was greeted by over 300 faculty members, students and staff of the Lviv Theological Academy at the site of the new University on Striyska Street. Fr. Borys Gudziak, Rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, greeted the Holy Father and asked His Holiness to bless the new university and all its members. Using a megaphone, the Pope gave a blessing in Latin and then generously sprinkled the singing crowd with holy water.

The Holy Father received flowers from an alumna and a special gift from the Institute of Church History's museum: a small case used as a portable alter with a chalice and paten used to celebrate Liturgies during the underground period of the Catholic Churches. The Pope then continued on for a blessing at the site of the future Holy Spirit Seminary and the university's theological faculty.

The new Ukrainian Catholic University which the Pope blessed is a sign of the new independent Ukraine. The enormous main building was started in Soviet times as a Communist Party complex but never completed. As the Soviet legacy left education in Ukraine corrupted and backward, the Ukrainian Catholic University is an effort to reform and advance higher education in Ukraine.

Before the Soviets closed it, the Lviv Theological Academy was a training-ground to educate seminarians destined for the priesthood. Post-soviet Ukraine has different needs, so lay men and women now study theology along with seminarians and male and female religious. The new Ukrainian Catholic University begins a history faculty this year and will soon add social sciences.

The university's Grand Chancellor, Cardinal Husar, notes: "Priests and lay people alike will prepare to become better scholars and better citizens at this university. This is a great matter for the Church, for the state and for all Ukrainian society. Becoming a hearth for Ukrainian learning, the Ukrainian Catholic University will give the opportunity to nurture those talents which the Lord God has given to our people."

Seven of the new Greek Catholic martyrs that were beatified on the following day by the Pope were directly involved with the Theological Academy and Holy Spirit Seminary during their lifetime. According to Fr. Gudziak, "Today they are considered the special heavenly patrons of the new university." Among them were such distinguished figures as Bishop Mykola Charnetsky, a professor at the Theological Academy. Professor Fathers Andriy Ishchak and Mykola Konrad were murdered on June 26, 1941 as the Bolshevik army was arriving. Fathers Roman Lysko and Oleksiy Zarytskyi were graduates of the Academy: the first was tortured to death in Lviv's "Lonskiy Street" prison and the second died after 15 years in exile in a camp in Karaganda, Kazakstan. Father Klymentiy Sheptytsky was the spiritual director of the Academy and died in a prison in Volodymyr, Russia.

At the youth rally, on the Sykhiv esplanade in front of the Church of the Nativity of Mary Mother of God in Lviv, speaking to some 500,000 people, the pope urged them not to "go from the slavery of the communist regime to the slavery of consumerism."

"Your country is going through a difficult and complex transition from the totalitarian regime which oppressed it for so many years to a society at last free and democratic. Freedom however needs strong, responsible and mature consciences. Freedom is demanding, and in a sense is more costly than slavery!"

He also touched upon the problem of emigration, stressing that young people must not be attracted by illusions of an "easy life" abroad, "You are needed here, ready to make your contribution to improving the social, cultural, economic, and political situation of your own country."

"The future of Ukraine depends in large part on you and the responsibilities that you will undertake. God will not fail to bless your efforts, if you commit your lives to generous service to family and society, placing the common good before private interests. Ukraine needs men and women dedicated to serving society, having as their aim the promotion of the rights and well-being of all, especially the weakest and most deprived. This is the logic of the Gospel, but it is also the logic that makes the civil community grow. True civilization, in fact, is measured not by economic progress alone but also and mainly by the human, moral and spiritual progress of a people."

The meeting took place under a torrential rain, and the pope interrupted his address by singing a Polish folk song "Rain, rain, go away" and joking, "It's raining, so children will grow."

June 27

The papal visit to Ukraine reached its climax on the morning of June 27 with a three-hour beatification cer-

Cont. on P. 12

Patriarch joins dictator in appeal for "Slavic Unity"

(RFE/RL)—In a village where the borders of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine converge, Russian Patriarch Aleksii II and Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on June 27 called for the unity of the three Slavic and predominantly Orthodox nations.

"There are forces in the world whose soul is against the unity of the Slavic peoples. Those forces, using peaceful rhetoric, want to break that unity apart and are engaged in attempts at spiritual and political expansion," AP quoted from a joint statement by Aleksii II and Lukashenka.

Aleksii II's five-day journey through Belarus was seen by many commentators as a thinly veiled challenge to and protest against Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Ukraine. Polish media reported that Aleksii II and Lukashenka failed to gather impressive crowds, adding that the number of presidential bodyguards usually surpassed that of believers willing to see and listen to the Russian patriarch.

During his visit to Belarus, Aleksii II also decorated several Belarusian KGB officers, including KGB Chairman Leanid Yeryn, with Russian Orthodox Church orders, Belapan reported. According to an official announcement, the KGB officers obtained their decorations for their contributions to "spiritual revival, the preservation of interdenominational peace and harmony, and the strengthening of the spiritual foundations of society" in Belarus.

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UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD OF CANADA

On this occasion following the historic visit of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II to Ukraine, greetings and prayers are extended to all Delegates and Guests for successful and meaningful deliberations at the TWENTIETH CONGRESS, Regina, Saskatchewan, July 5 - 8, 2001

Jayne Paluck, UCWLC **Eugene Krenosky, UCBC**

Ukrainians beatified by Pope John Paul II

Religious Information Services of Ukraine

What follows are brief biographies of the Ukrainian faithful who were beatified by Pope John Paul II during his historic visit to Ukraine.

Sanctifying righteousness

Sister Josaphata (Michaelina Hordashevska) was born in Lviv on November 20, 1869. At the age of 18, influenced by the retreats of the Basilian Fathers, she felt the call to consecrate her life to God. Together with Fr. Kyryl Seletskyi, pastor in Zhuzhel, and Father Yeremia Lomnytskyi, OSBM, she established a new congregation, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, called to an active apostolate among the people. Today the Sisters Servants is the biggest female religious community in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Sister Josaphata's holiness showed itself in her total dedication to her calling, in constantly embodying in her life Christ's command to love God and neighbor and in humbly bearing all her difficulties and sufferings.

She died on April 7, 1919 after a long and severe illness, prophesying the day of her death, which she accepted consciously, with prayer on her lips.

Apostle of unity

Priest and Martyr Father Leonid Feodorov was born to a Russian Orthodox family on 4 November 1879 in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 1902, he left his studies at the Petersburg Spiritual Academy and went abroad. In Rome he converted to Catholicism. He studied in Anagni, Rome and Frieburg. Contact with Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky had a great influence on Fr. Leonid's spiritual development. On 25 March 1911, he was ordained a Greek Catholic priest. In 1913 he became a monk of the Studite order in Bosnia. After his return to tsarist Russia, in connection with the beginning of World War One he was exiled to Tobolsk, Siberia because he was a Catholic. In 1917, he was released and appointed head of the Russian Greek Catholic Church, with the title of Exarch. His second imprisonment came in 1923, now by the Bolsheviks, for ten years. From 1926 to 1929 he served his term in Solovki and later in exile in Pinieza, Kotlas and Viatka.

He died as a martyr for the faith and church unity on 7 March 1935.

Patron of students

Priest and martyr Father Mykola Konrad was born on 16 May 1876 in the village of Strusiv, Ternopil District. He finished his philosophical and theological studies in Rome, where he defended his doctoral dissertation. In 1899, he was ordained to the priesthood. He taught in a high school in Berezhony and Tereboblya. In 1929 in Lviv he founded Obnova ("Renewal"), the first Ukrainian association of Catholic students. In 1930 Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky invited him to teach at the Lviv Theological Academy and later appointed him to be a parish priest in the village of Stradch, near Yaniv. There, as in previous years, he showed his great diligence and responsibility, fulfilling his pastoral duties, in particular spiritual guidance for youth.

Returning from visiting a sick woman who had requested the sacrament of reconciliation, he died tragically as a martyr for the faith at the hands of the NKVD (KGB) on 26 June 1941 near Stradch.

Sacrificial cantor

Martyr Volodymyr Pryjma was born on 17 July 17, 1906 in the village of Stradch, Yavoriv District. After graduating from a school for cantors he became the cantor and choir director in the local church. He took active part in the life of his parish. Always and in everything he respected human dignity and built his life on the principles of the gospel. On 26 June 1941 agents of the NKVD (KGB) mercilessly tortured and murdered him along with Fr. Mykola Konrad.

Professor and pastor

Priest and Martyr Father Andriy Ishchak was born on September 20, 1887 in Mykolayiv, in the Lviv District. He finished his theological studies at the universities in Lviv and Innsbruck (Austria). In 1914 he received his Ph.D. in Theology and was ordained. Beginning in 1928, he taught Dogmatic Theology and Canon Law at the Lviv Theological Academy. He was able to combine his professorial duties with his pastoral work in the village of Sykhiv near Lviv, where he met his death. Even under the threat of great danger he did not leave his parishioners without spiritual guidance. He was faithful to the end.

In 26 June 1941, he died a martyr for the faith at the hands of soldiers of the retreating Soviet Army.

Benevolent prior

Priest and Martyr Father Severian (Baranyk) was born on July 18, 1889, place of birth unknown. On 24 September 1904 he entered the monastery of the Basilian Fathers in Krekhiv. He was ordained to the priesthood on 14 February 1915. In 1932 he became the hegumen (prior) of the monastery in Drohobych. In life he was noted for his special kindness to youth and orphans. He inspired all with his joy and was famous for his preaching. On 26 June 1941 the NKVD (KGB) arrested him. They brought him to a prison in Drohobych, after which he was never seen alive again. His body, mutilated by tortures, was found among other dead prisoners.

He died a martyr for the faith at the end of June 1941.

Loving monk

Priest and Martyr Father Yakym (Senkivskyi) was born on 2 May 1896 in the village of Haji Velyki, Ternopil District. After completing his theological studies in Lviv, he was ordained as a priest on 4 December 1921. He received a Ph.D. in Theology in Innsbruck (Austria). In 1923 he became a novice in the Basilian order in Krekhiv. After professing his first vows he was assigned to serve in the village of Krasnopushcha, and later to the village of Lavriv, in the area of Starosambir. From 1931 to 1938 at St. Onufry monastery in Lviv he was chaplain of the Marian Society, he ministered to children and youth and organized a Eucharistic Society. In 1939, he was appointed proto-hegumen (abbot) at the monastery in Drohobych. He was arrested by the Bolsheviks on 26 June 1941. According to the testimony of various prisoners, he was boiled to death in a cauldron in the Drohobych prison on June 29. Because of his righteous life the faithful held him up as a model of service to Church and nation.

He died a martyr for the faith.

Fearless preacher

Priest and Martyr Father Zenoviy (Kovalyk) was born on August 18, 1903 in the village of Ivakhiv near Ternopil. He entered the Congregation of the Redemptorists and on 28 August 1926 he made his religious vows. His philosophical and theological education was received in Belgium. He returned to Ukraine and on 4 September 1937 was ordained to the priesthood. He served as a missionary in Volyn. On 20 December 1940 he was arrested in church while giving a homily. After terrible tortures he was murdered by the Communists in a mock crucifixion against a wall in a prison on Zamarstynivska Street, in Lviv in June 1941.

He died a martyr for the faith.

Rescuer of the doomed

Priest and Martyr Father Emilian Kovch was born on 20 August 1884, in Kosmach near Kosiv. After graduating from the College of Saints Sergius and Bacchus in Rome, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1911. In 1919 he became field chaplain for the Ukrainian Galician Army. After the war and until his imprisonment he conducted his priestly ministry in Przemysl, at the same time tending to his parishioners' social and cultural life. He helped the poor and orphans, though he had six children of his own. During World War II he bravely carried out his priestly duties, preaching love to people of all nationalities and rescuing Jews from destruction. He was arrested by the Gestapo on 30 December 1942. He displayed heroic bravery in the concentration camp, protecting the prisoners sentenced to death from falling into despair.

He was burned to death in the ovens of the Majdanek Nazi death camp on 25 March 1944. He was recognized as a "Righteous Ukrainian" by the Jewish Council of Ukraine on 9 September 1999.

"Because she was a nun."

Nun and Martyr Sister Tarsykiya Matskiv was born on 23 March 1919 in the village of Khodoriv, Lviv District. On 3 May 1938 she entered the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. After professing her first vows on 5 November 1940, she worked in the convent, sewing clothes for the sisters and teaching the skill to others. Even prior to the Bolshevik arrival in Lviv, Sr. Tarsykiya had made a private oath to her spiritual director, Fr. Volodymyr Kovalyk O.S.B.M, that she would sacrifice her life for the conversion of Russia and for the good of the Catholic Church. On 17 July 1944 Soviet soldiers surrounded the monastery, determined to destroy it. At 8 a.m. Sister opened the door, expecting a priest who was supposed to celebrate the liturgy. Without warning an automatic shot her dead. All her life she witnessed to the authenticity of the consecrated life.

She died a martyr for the faith.

Friendly missionary

Priest and Martyr Father Vitaliy (Bairak) was born on 24 February 1907 in the village of Shvaikivtsy, Ternopil District. In 1924 he entered the Basilian monastery. He was ordained a priest on 13 August 1933. In 1941 he was appointed superior of the Drohobych monastery, in place of the recently martyred Father Yakym (Senkivskyi). On 17 September 1945 the NKVD (KGB) arrested Fr. Vitaliy and on 13 November sentenced him to 8 years imprisonment "with confiscation of property" (though he had none). In life he was distinguished for his friendliness, his activeness in mission and preaching. He possessed the gift of spiritual direction.

He died a martyr for the faith just before Easter 1946 after having been severely beaten in the Drohobych prison.

Father-Psalmist

Priest and Martyr Father Roman Lysko was born on 14 August 1914 in Horodok, Lviv District. He finished his theological studies at the Lviv Theological Academy. Possessing special poetic and artistic talents, he and his wife joyfully conducted youth ministry together. On 28 August 1941 he was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. He refused to sign a statement of conversion to Orthodoxy, remaining faithful to his Church and his people. On 9 September 1949 he was arrested by the NKVD (KGB) and imprisoned in Lviv. Until 1956, according to information given after his family had been turned away many times, it was said that he died on 14 October 1949 from paralysis of the heart. But many witnesses report that they saw him in prison later, or they heard him singing psalms at the top of his lungs. It was reported that they sealed him up, alive, in a wall.

He gave his life as a martyr for the faith.

Unbending fighter

Bishop and Martyr Hryhory Khomyshyn was born on 25 March 1867 in the village of Hadynkivtsi, Ternopil District. After graduating from the Lviv seminary in 1893 he was ordained to the priesthood. He continued his theological studies in Vienna (1894-1899), earning a doctorate. In 1902, Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky appointed Fr. Hryhory rector of the Seminary in Lviv and in 1904 he was ordained bishop for Ivano-Frankivsk. In 1939, he was arrested for the first time by the NKVD (KGB). His second arrest was in April of 1945, after which he was taken to Kyiv's Lukianivska prison. Bishop Hryhory remained an example for the Church of the bravery of a soldier of Christ, showing perseverance in God's truth in the most difficult moments of life.

He died a martyr for the faith in the infirmary of the NKVD prison in Kyiv on 17 January 1947.

Undying spirit of the Carpathians

Bishop and Martyr Theodore (Romzha) was born on April 14, 1911, in the village of Velykyj Bychkiv, Transcarpathia in a family of railroad workers. He finished his theological studies at the Papal Gregorian University in Rome. In 1938 he became pastor in the mountain villages of Berezevo and Nyzhnii Bystryi outside of Khust. Beginning with the fall of 1939 he taught philosophy and was spiritual director at the Uzhorod seminary. On 24 September 1944, soon after the arrival of the Soviet Army, he was ordained to the episcopacy. Because Bishop Theodore bravely refused to cooperate with the authorities in the liquidation of the Greek Catholic Church and separate from the Roman Apostolic See, government organs decided to destroy him. On October 27, 1947 a military vehicle ran into the bishop's horse-carriage. When *the soldiers saw that he didn't die in the accident, they beat* him and his companions into unconsciousness. On November 1 of that year when Bishop Theodore was beginning to recover, he was poisoned in the Mukachiv hospital by workers cooperating with the security services.

He died a martyr for the faith.

"Deported" into eternity

Bishop and Martyr Josaphat Kotsylovsky was born on 3 March 1876 in the village of Pakoshivka, Lemkiv District. He graduated with a degree in Theology from Rome in 1907, and later on October 9 of that year he was ordained to the priesthood. Not long after that he was appointed vice-rector and professor of Theology at the Ivano-Frankivsk seminary. In 1911 he entered the novitiate of the Basilian order. He was ordained a bishop on 23 September 1917 in Przemysl upon the return of Metropolitan Andrey (Sheptytsky) from captivity in Russia. In September of 1945 the Polish communist authorities arrested him and on 26 June 1946, after his next arrest, they forcibly took him to the USSR and placed him in a prison in Kyiv. Throughout his life he showed his perseverance of service, to make the Christian faith firm and to grow in human souls.

He died a martyr for the faith on 17 November 1947 in the Chapaivka concentration camp near Kyiv.

Archpastor in three parts of the world

Bishop and Martyr Nykyta (Budka) was born on 7 June 1877 in the village of Dobomirka, Zbarazh District. In 1905 after finishing theological studies in Vienna and Innsbruck he was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky. From the very beginning he gave great attention to the ministry for Ukrainian emigrants. The Holy See appointed him first bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada in July 1912 and he was ordained bishop on 14 October 1912. In 1928 he returned to Lviv and became Vicar General of the Metropolitan Curia in Lviv. On 11 April 1945 he was imprisoned together with other bishops and sentenced to eight years imprisonment. He was the embodiment of constant consolation and spiritual support for his fellow prisoners in the labor camp.

He died a martyr for the faith in Karaganda, Kazakstan on 1 October 1949.

Angelic Bishop

Bishop and Martyr Hryhory (Lakota) was born on 31 January 1883 in the village of Holodivka, in Lviv District. He studied Theology in Lviv. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1908 in Przemsyl. In Vienna in 1911 he received his Ph.D. in Theology. In 1913 he became a professor at the Przemysl seminary, later becoming its rector. On 16 May 1926, he was ordained to the episcopacy and was appointed auxiliary bishop

Ukrainians beatified by Pope John Paul II

of Przemysl. On 9 June 1946 he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. In exile in Vorkuta (Russia) he was distinguished for his great humanness, his humility, his desire to take the most difficult labor on himself and to make the unbearable conditions of life easier for others.

He died a martyr for the faith on 12 November 1950 in the village of Abez near Vorkuta.

Aristocrat of the spirit

Priest and Martyr Archimandrite Klymentiy (Sheptytsky), the younger brother of the Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, was born on 17 November 1869 in the village of Prylbychi, Yavoriv region. He studied law in Munich and Paris and received a doctorate at the University of Krakow. He was a legate of the Austrian Parliament and member of the National Council. In 1912 he entered the Studite monastery as a late vocation; by so doing he renounced his successful secular career. He completed his theological studies in Innsbruck. On 28 August 1915 he was ordained to the priesthood. For many years he was the hegumen (prior) of the Studite monastery at Univ, and in 1944 he became the archimandrite (abbot). During World War II, he gave refuge to persecuted Jews. On 5 June 1947, he was arrested and sentenced to eight years imprisonment by a special meeting of the NKVD (KGB) in Kyiv.

He died a martyr for the faith on 1 May 1951 in a harsh prison in Vladimir, Russia.

Prayerful Parent

Priest and martyr Father Mykola Tsehelskyi was born on 17 December 1896 in the village of Strusiv, Ternopil District. In 1923, he graduated from the Theological Faculty of Lviv University. On 5 April 1925 Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky ordained him to the priesthood. He was a zealous priest who cared for the spirituality, education and welfare of his parishioners. After the war he was repressed by the Bolsheviks because he refused to convert to Orthodoxy. Father drank deep from the bitter cup of intimidation, threats and beatings. On 28 October 1946 he was arrested and on 27 January 1947 he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. He was deported to Mordovia (Russia), but his wife, three children and daughter-in-law were taken to Russia's Chytynska region. He lived in extremely horrid conditions, in a camp that was notoriously strict and cruel. He suffered from severe pain due to illness, but this did not break his strong spirit.

He died a martyr for the faith on 25 May 1951 and is buried in the camp cemetery.

Suffered on Good Friday

Martyr and Priest Father Ivan (Ziatyk) was born on 26 December 1899 in the village of Odrekhiv, near Syanok. After finishing his theology studies in Przemysl seminary in 1923 he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1935 he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). He was a teacher of Dogmatic Theology and Holy Scripture, and also known as a good administrator. During the Nazi occupation he was acting superior of the monastery in Ternopil and later in Zboiski near Lviv. After the official liquidation of the UGCC and the exile of Protohegumen Yosyf de Vokhta, Father Ivan took on his duties. On 5 January 1950 he was arrested, found guilty of "preaching the ideas of the Pope of Rome regarding the spread of the Catholic faith among nations of the whole world." At first he was imprisoned in Zolochiv and later was sent to Ozerlah, Irkhutsk region, Russia. In all he lived through 72 interrogations. On Good Friday in 1952 he was severely beaten, drenched with water and left to lie in the cold.

He died in the prison infirmary on 17 May 1952 a martyr for the faith.

A Mother to her sisters

Nun and Martyr Sister Olympia (Olha Bida) was born in 1903 in the village of Tsebliv, Lviv District. At a young age she entered the congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. In 1938 she was assigned to the town of Khyriv where she became superior of the house. After the establishment of the Soviet regime she and the other sisters suffered a number of attacks on the convent. She, nevertheless, continued to care for children, to catechize, to organize underground religious services (often without a priest). In 1950 she was arrested by soldiers of the NKVD (KGB) and taken to a hard labor camp in Boryslav. Eventually she was sentenced to lifelong exile in the Tomsk region of Siberia for "anti-Soviet activities." Even in exile, Sr. Olympia tried to perform her duties as superior. She was a support for her fellow sisters. She patiently endured inhuman living conditions.

She died a martyr's death on 23 January 1952.

Faith amid hopelessness

Nun and Martyr Sister Lavrentia (Herasymiv) was born on 31 September 1911 in the village of Rudnyky, Lviv District. In 1931 she entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tsebliv. In 1933 she made her first vows. Together with Sister Olympia, in 1938 she went to the house in Khyriv and their fates were crossed until death. In 1950 she was arrested by the agents of the NKVD and sent to Boryslav. Eventually, together with her fellow sister she was sentenced to lifelong exile in the Tomsk region. She was sick with tuberculosis when she arrived to her designated place of exile and so only one family would agree to give her a roof over her head. This was in a room where a paralyzed man lay behind a partition. She prayed much and performed various forms of manual labor. She patiently endured inhuman living conditions and the lack of medical attention.

She died on 28 August 1952 as a martyr for the faith in the village of Kharsk in Siberia's Tomsk Region.

Berlin Founder

Priest and Martyr Father Petro (Verhun) was born on 18 November 1890 in Horodok, Lviv District. He held a Ph.D. in Philosophy. On October 30, 1927 he was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky at St. George's Cathedral and was appointed to be the pastor and later the Apostolic Visitator for Ukrainian Catholics in Germany. Priests and all the faithful whom fate had brought to a foreign land gravitated to Father Petro because they felt he was a good shepherd who would give his life for his sheep. In June 1945 he was arrested by the Soviet security services in Berlin and sent to Siberia, sentenced to eight years of hard labor. But even there, amid unbearable living conditions, he knew how to gather the faithful around him, giving his own personal example of perseverance in the faith.

He died as a martyr for the faith on 7 February 1957 in exile in the village of Anharsk, in the Krasnoyar territory.

Pastor of the East

Priest and Martyr Father Oleksiy Zaryts'kyi was born in 1912 in the village of Bilche, in the Lviv District. From 1931 to 1934 he studied at the Lviv Theological Academy. He was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in 1936. During his ministry in the village of Strutyna near Zolochiv he gained the special favor of his parishioners. In 1948, he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the camps of Siberia and Kazakstan for refusing to convert to Orthodoxy. After his rehabilitation in 1957 he returned to western Ukraine a number of times but again returned to the east. Amid inhuman conditions Father had a wide field for pastoral ministry to people in a foreign land. He tirelessly took care not only of Ukrainians but Poles, Germans, Russians, Greek and Roman Catholics. He visited Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj in exile. He was sentenced a second time: two years for "vagrancy." The guardian of children, youth, the poor, he will forever remain in people's memory an example of the embodiment in life of the commandments to love God and neighbor.

He died a martyr for the faith on 30 October 1963 in a labor camp in a village in Karaganda. His mortal remains were reburied in 1990 in the village of Riasna-Ruska near Lviv.

Healer of souls

Bishop and Martyr Mykola (Charnetsky) was born on 14 September 1884 in the village of Semakivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk District. After he completed his studies at the local seminary and in Rome he was ordained to the priesthood in 1909. He obtained his doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from Rome and became a spiritual director and professor at the seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk. In 1919 he entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Fathers in Lviv and in 1926 he was appointed apostolic visitator for Ukrainian Catholics in Volyn, Polissia, Kholm and Pidliashshia. A model religious and missionary, he zealously worked for the union of the Holy Church. He was ordained to the episcopacy by Bishop Hryhory Khomyshyn in Rome on 2 February 1931. He was arrested by the NKVD (KGB) on 11 April 1945 and sentenced to six years of hard labor in Siberia. According to official data he underwent 600 hours of interrogation and torture and spent time in 30 different prisons and camps. Terminally ill, in 1956 he was permitted to return to western Ukraine where he secretly continued to fulfill his episcopal obligations. In the midst of the cruelty and oppression which he suffered in imprisonment and in exile, he was distinguished for his evangelical patience, gentleness and limitless goodness; already during his life he was considered a holy man.

As a consequence of his sufferings he died a martyr for the faith on 2 April 1959 in Lviv.

Discrete member of the underground

Bishop and Martyr Semeon (Lukach) was born on July 7, 1893 in the village of Starunya, Ivano-Frankivsk District. In 1913, he entered the seminary. He finished the seminary in Ivano-Frankivsk and was ordained a priest in 1919. In December 1920 he was appointed professor of Moral Theology at the seminary where he had earlier studied. He secretly received episcopal ordination in spring of 1945 before the arrest of Bishop Hryhory (Khomyshyn). On 26 October 1949 he was arrested by the Soviet secret police. Sentenced in August 1950 to 10 years of imprisonment, he carried out hard labor in a lumber camp in Krasnoyarsk. He was freed on 11 February 1955 and returned to his native land. In July 1962 he was arrested for a second time and was sentenced to 5 years in a severe colony. During his interrogations he showed his unbroken perseverance, his discretion and faithfulness to the Catholic Church. In March 1964 because of his critical condition, tuberculosis of the lungs, he was taken to his native village, Starunya.

He died a martyr for the faith on 22 August 1964.

Unbroken "conversationalist"

Bishop and Martyr Ivan (Sleziuk) was born on January 14, 1896 in the village of Zhyvachiv, Ivano-Frankivsk District. After graduating from the eparchial seminary in 1923 he was ordained to the priesthood. He served as a catechist and spiritual director in Ivano-Frankivsk. In April of 1945 Bishop Hryhory Khomyshyn secretly ordained him a bishop. On 2 June 1945 Bishop Ivan was arrested and a year later he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. He served his sentence in camps in Vorkuta and Mordovia, Russia. Released from prison he returned to Ivano-Frankivsk and carried out the duties of administrator of the eparchy. In 1962 he was arrested for the second time, together with Bishop Semeon (Lukach) and he was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in harsh camps. After his release in 1968 he ordained Basilian Sofron (Dmyterko) a bishop. Bishop Sofron succeeded him in guiding the eparchy. In his final years Bishop Ivan was often called to the KGB for regular "conversations." After one of these "conversations" he fell ill and never recovered.

He died a martyr for the faith on 2 December 1973 in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Worthy Acting Head

Bishop and Martyr Vasyl (Velychkovsky) was born 1 June 1903 in Ivano-Frankivsk. In 1920 he entered the seminary in Lviv. In 1925 in Holosko, near Lviv, he took his first religious vows in the Order of the Most Holy Redeemer and was ordained a priest. Fr. Basil became a missionary in Volyn. In 1942 he became the hegumen (prior) of the monastery in Ternopil, where he was arrested in 1945. He was then taken to Kyiv. His death sentence was soon commuted to ten years of imprisonment and hard labor. He returned to Lviv in 1955, where he continued his pastoral work. In 1963 he was secretly ordained an archbishop in a Moscow hotel by Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj, who, on his way to exile in Rome, passed Bishop Vasyl the responsibility for the catacomb Church. Predicting his own possible arrest, he ordained new underground bishops in 1964, among whom was his successor, Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk, who eventually led the Church out of the underground. In 1969 Bishop Vasyl was arrested a second time but after three years of imprisonment he was deported outside the USSR.

He died in Winnipeg, Canada on 30 June 1973 as a consequence of serious heart disease which began when he was in prison.

Oleh Turii, candidate of Historical Studies and acting director of the Institute of Church History at the Lviv Theological Academy, prepared this text on the basis of materials of the Postulation Center for the Beatification and Canonization of Saints of the UGCC and the archives of the Institute of Church History at the LTA.

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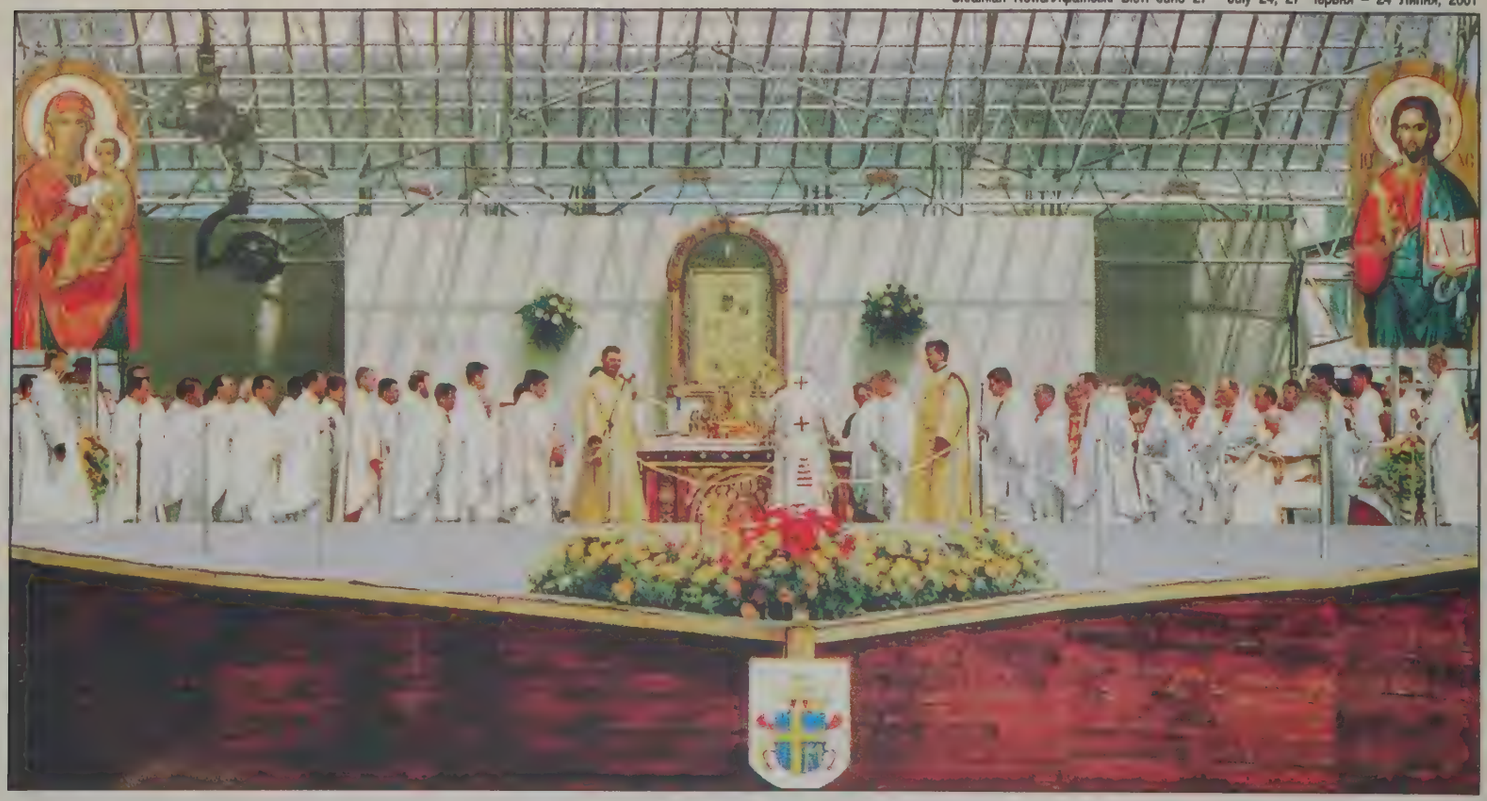

PHOTO — UNIAN

A view of the podium at Kyiv's Chayka Airport, June 24.

Pope concludes historic visit

Cont. from P. 9

emony for 27 martyrs and the foundress of a religious order. Estimates of those in attendance ranged from 750,000 to the Vatican press secretary's count of 1,500,000, but even the smallest estimates confirm the opening remarks of Fr. Gudziak that "Today you form the largest choir ever to sing the Byzantine Liturgy."

Most news agencies reported over 1 million in attendance

Before the liturgy began, Cardinal Husar spoke briefly about the historic moment of the beatifications. As Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, he also used the opportunity to offer a general petition for forgiveness for the Church's failings at various times. This follows a pattern set by the Pope himself during the Jubilee year 2000 of using the new millennium as a time for the purification of the past.

"It might seem strange, incomprehensible and even contradictory in this moment of the glorification of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church to also recall that the history of the past century knew moments of darkness and spiritual tragedy, moments in which most unfortunately certain sons and daughters of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church consciously and voluntarily did evil things to their neighbors, both to their own people and to others," said Cardinal Husar

"For all of them, in your presence, Most Holy Father, in the name of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, I wish to ask forgiveness from the Lord, the Creator and Father of us all, and also from those whom we, sons and daughters of this church, may have wronged in any way. So that the horrible past may not weigh down upon us, and not poison our life, for our part with all our hearts we forgive those who in any way have wronged us. We are convinced that in the spirit of mutual forgiveness we will be able to proceed in peace to the celebration of this Divine Liturgy with you, Your Holiness, with the expectation that in this way we are entering into a new and better century with sincere and unshakable hope."

During the beatification ritual, which preceded the scriptural read-

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Pope John Paul II blesses a child at Lviv's Hippodrome, June 27.

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PHOTO — UNIAN

Children hold a portrait of Pope John Paul II during the Mass ay Kyiv's Chayka Airport, June 24.

Pope concludes historic visit

ings, four official new icons of Bishop Charnetsky and companions, Bishop Teodor Romzha, Fr. Emilian Kovch, and Sr. Josaphata Hordashevsky were brought forward and placed on large stands on a lower level of the elevated sanctuary. The Pope also announced the feast days for the new blesseds: 27 June for Charnetsky and 24 Companions, 1 November for Teodor Romzha, 27 June for Emilian Kovch, and 20 November for Sr. Josaphata.

The Pope's homily pointed out the special role each of the new martyrs has as models for the church in Ukraine.

"This land of Halychyna, which in the course of history has witnessed the growth of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, has been covered, as the unforgettable Metropolitan Yosyf Slipyi used to say, 'with mountains of corpses and rivers of blood'," he said.

Pope John Paul II also indicated that the Beatification of Metropolitan Sheptytsky may be forthcoming.

"How can we fail to recall the far-sighted and solid pastoral activity of the Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, whose cause of Beatification is proceeding and whom we hope to see one day in the glory of the Saints? We must refer to his heroic apostolic activity if we are to understand the humanly inexplicable fruitfulness of the Greek-Catholic Church of Ukraine during the dark years of persecution.

"In my youth I myself was a witness of this kind of 'apocalypse'. 'My priesthood, even at its beginning, was in some way marked by the great sacrifice of countless men and women of my generation' (Gift and Mystery, p. 39). Their memory must not be lost, for it is a blessing. We admire them and we are grateful to them: like an icon of the Gospel of the Beatitudes which they lived even to the shedding of blood, they are a sign of hope for our times and for the times to come. They have shown that love is stronger than death.

"In their resistance to the mystery of evil, the strength of faith and of the grace of Christ was able to shine brightly, despite human weakness (cf. 2 Cor 12:9-10). Their unconquered witness has shown itself to be the seed of new Christians (cf. Tertullian, Apol., 50, 13: CCL 1, 171).

"Together with them Christians of other confessions were also persecuted and killed on account of Christ. Their joint martyrdom is a pressing call for reconciliation and unity. This is the ecumenism of the martyrs and witnesses to faith, which indicates the path of unity to the Christians of the twenty-first century. May their sacrifice be a practical lesson of life for all. This is certainly not an easy task. During the last centuries too many stereotyped ways of thinking, too much mutual resentment and too much intolerance have accumulated. The only way to clear the path is to forget the past, ask forgiveness of one another and forgive one another for the wounds inflicted and received, and unreservedly trust the renewing action of the Holy Spirit.

"These martyrs teach us to be faithful to the twofold commandment of love: love of God, love of our brothers and sisters."

Following Mass, the Pope travelled to the archiepiscopal Palace of St. George in Lviv where he had lunch with the Ukrainian Catholic bishops and members of his entourage.

At 5:45 p.m., the Holy Father went to Lviv's international airport for the farewell ceremony attended by tens of thousands.

"Your Holiness' visit to Ukraine obviously proved to the world that Ukraine is an integral and natural part of European society," President Kuchma tol the pontiff.

Before boarding the airplane for a three-hour flight back to Rome, the Pope told the crowd that his visit had left him with "unforgettable memories." He offered his thanks to the Catholics who had played host to his visit, as well as to the "venerable pastors of the Orthodox Church" in Ukraine.

"My hope is that Ukraine will be able fully to become a part of the Europe which will take in the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Urals," he added.

"To you, land of Ukraine, I renew my wish for prosperity and peace. Goodbye Ukraine."

See Page 24 for more pictures

PHOTO — UNIAN

Pope John Paul II blesses the ground at Bykivnia near Kyiv, where 200,000 Ukrainian victims of Stalinist terror are buried.

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Мої враження з подорожі до України

Стефанія Байдужа

По багатьох роках я постановила відвідати свою численну родину в Україні, яка проживає так в містах як і на селах. Весна то найкращий час поїхати там і побачити красу моєї батьківщини – подумла я і закупила квиток на літак.

Вже перші мої враження не були захоплюючі.

У Львові, ще на літаку перевірили мій паспорт. Пізніше паспорт показувала для митної служби і очевидно завартість моїх багажів. Пізніше знова показувала паспорт бо мусіла закупити асекурацію на здоров'я (кошт 50 дол. ам.) незалежно від того, що я закупила собі її ще в Канаді. На митниці працівники казали порахувати і записати скільки грошей везу і питали чи везу золото. Як сказала що ні, то вони і так не повірили, бо питали мене про це три рази. Ще за мною вибігла одна з працівниць і сказала щоб дати їй 20 дол. ам., бо як би не вона то мене обікрали б. Я покірно дала їй що вона хотіла, нехотячи мати неприємностей.

Тернопіль

По тим не дуже гарним першим зіткненні з краєм, мене радісно зустрінула родина і приятелі на литовищі і ми поїхали до Тернополя де переживає частина моєї фамілії. Знаємо що Тернопіль був дуже знищений під час війни. Тепер він модерно відбудований і став дуже гарним містом.

В місті перебування на візиті треба конечно зголоситися на поліції, бо як відїзджаєш без їхньої печатки у паспорті мусиш заплатити «штраф».

Я відвідала свого двоюрідного брата Петра і його жінку. Мене шокувало те, що вони жили в маленьким помешканні величиною 3м х 3м, і до того ще винаймали це поміщення 4 студентам для спання, щоб могти заплатити свої рахунки.

Вражали також мене такі ситуації як ця. Мої козини, 2 родини, які є льотчиками, мешкають в будинку де вхідні двері як і коридор були побиті і дуже брудні і нікому це не перешкоджувало, ніхто про це не дбає. Їхні помешкання в цім же будинку дуже гарні і чисті.

Я говорила з людьми та з родиною про різні справи. Мені розказували про велике безробіття, про це що більшість фабрик замкнених. Молоді люди в більшості не мають праці, помешкань, жиють разом зі своїми родичами часто в одній кімнаті. Не маючи жодних перспектив на майбутнє молоді люди, часто випускники університетів, покідають свої родини і відїзджають за роботою до інших країн Європи. Не знаючи других мов опиняються в трагічних ситуаціях. Молоді жінки часто пропадають без вісті, стаючись жертвами розмаїтих ґангів, які затруднюють їх як проститутки. Люди казали мені, що останнього року коло 3 тис. людей пропало за кордонами або тільки їх тіла повернули до України. Спеціяльно небезпечно виїзджати за роботою до Росії, де є великий рівень злочинства. Росіяни бють українців як дізнаються що вони приїзджають там за роботою і остерігають, що як вони повернуться назад до Росії забють їх.

Інша справа яка дуже турбує людей, що люди не мають абсолютно довір'я до влади. В час коли була виміна грошей, більш досвідчені люди вибирали з банків свої ощадності і купували усе що тільки мало якусь вартість, інші котрі повірили владі втратили всі свої гроші в банках.

Одна жінка показала мені свої банкові книжки де мала гроші замкнені на 1 рік і на 5 років. Ці всі гроші пропали її коли Україна міняла рублі на гривні. Уряд запевняв людей, що вони ті гроші дістануть назад але до нині ніхто їм тих грошей не повернув. Так само показала мені книжку своєї помершої самітної сестри, якої теж пропали гроші, так що вона, не мала за що її навіть поховати.

В містах багато людей працює для других не за гроші а прост за продукти щоб могти пережити.

Львів

Канадські доляри тяжко а то неможливо вимінити офіційно в банках. Числяться тільки американські доляри. Наші канадські я міняла на маркетах. Як небезпечно це відбувається можна собі уявити, беручи до уваги величезне безробіття та злочинність. Ніколи незнати чи хтось за тобою не слідкує, чи справді дістаєш правдиві гроші чи їх фальсифікати, чи тебе не вшукають при численні і так дальше.

У Львові я відвідала Личаківське кладовище. Цвинтар виглядає як чудовий парк–город. Нігде хіба на світі не має таких чудових пам'ятників як там, так багато квітів, дерев які прикрашують майже кожну могилу. Я бачила могили та чудово побудовані пам'ятники Марк'яна Шашкевича, Соломії Крушельницької, Володимира Івасюка, Івана Франка, Станіслава Людкевича, обсипану свіжими квітами могилу Ігоря Білозора. Там похований Епископ Миколай Чарнецький, якого люди вважають святим і йдуть до його могили молитися, беруть пісок з його могили як реліквію.

Ходячи по місті я захоплювалася прекрасними пам'ятниками побудованими визначним людям: М. Грушевському, Т. Шевченку, А. Міцкевичу та іншим. Старовинне місто Львів, всюди забиткові будовлі: пречудові церкви, оборонні стіни ще з середньовіччя, знаний всім українцям будинок опери на одним з головніших пляців міста. Зайшла до церкви Св. Юра. В підземлях поховані Митр. Андрей Шептицький, Архиєп. Кардинал Йосиф Сліпий, Кардинал Іван Мирослав Любачівський.

Село в Тернопільській області

На селі на загал люди жиють бідно. Некотрі жиють на вищому рівні, другі жиють ще дуже примітивно, як я би сказала не 50 а 100 літ назад. Котрасти є страшенні.

Я була учасницею панахиди. Під час тризни на столах багато розмаїтих страв і то дуже смачних. В більшості їжа зроблена домашніми способами, не купована. На примір хліб печений в дома, м'ясо, ярина і фрукти з глечиків. Багато самогонки. Мене вражав факт, що люди ще їдять з одної миски – 5 осіб їли з одної миски борщ. Всі жінки зібрані як за часів наших бабунь – кожна в хустці на голові, навіть молоді дівчата і діти.

Ми говорили про розмаїті справи. Вони оповідали мені про своє життя.

Некотрі, з них мають малі паї землі на котрих вирощують збіжжя, ярину, фрукти, кукурудзу, для себе та своїх тварин. Ті що не мають коня або машин мусять ділитися своїм урожаєм з другими людьми, котрі їм помагають обробити їхні поля.

Я зауважила, що корови й вівці дуже брудні. Люди пояснювали, що вони не мають достатньо сломи, щоб худобі стелити. Мають за малі поля, щоб управляти збіжжя і так само не ма досить паствиськ щоб придбати сіна. Нічого там не марнується. На своїх маліх полях вони вирощують переважно кукурудзу, цукрові бураки, бараболю – рослини які дають найбільше прибутку і користи. Худоба зїдає навіть кукурудзяні стеблини порізані на маленьки кавальчики.

Люди жиють в дуже примітивних обставинах. Більшість хат в селі має туалети на дворі. Некотрі з них це тільки діра в землі, некотрі вищі на пару цалів. Брудні. Туалетний папір це мрія, навіть газетного папіру не ма.

Дороги в селах це просто жах. Діра на дірі. Казали мені, що ті дороги були побудовані ще за Австро–Угорської окупації. Вони вже позападалися глибоко часом на 20 цм. Як впаде дощ, то болото є таке глибоке, що неможливо ними переїхати або перейти.

Зато я була захоплена природою України. Гарні дерева, які тут не ростуть, чудові квіти, багато дуже чистих річок та озер. Ніколи я не чула так голосного співу жаб. Коли ми переїзджали автом бачили величезні гнізда бузьків, побудовані на хатах або на електричних стовпах або на вершках дерев. Бузьки часом сиділи на своїх гніздах бо вже були молоді.

Люди на Україні дуже побожні. Всюди чудові маленькі церковці та великі церкви, які відбудовуються добровольцями. При дорогах часто ми бачили задбані фігурки а навіть маленьки каплички Ісуса Христа та Божої Матері.

Я відвідала Завранищу, де є чудотворча ікона Пресвятої Богоматері. Можна напитися святої води яка випливає просто з джерела.

Закарпатська область

Як чудово було в тій частині України. Був квітень – усе у повному розквіті: вишні, черешні, яблуні, сливи, навіть виноград та інші дерева й кущі. Чистенькі, прозорі джерела, озера, річки і ріки. Їх повно всюди. Вода є така чиста, що люди п'ють її безпосередньо з джерела. Люди приїзджають з далека щоб набрати цієї чистої і дуже смачної води до пита і вареня.

В горах багато розташованих діточих та молодіжних таборів. Ми навіть були гістьми одного з них. Дуже мені смаковало печене на відкритим вогні сало з хлібом.

Ми зустрічали малі старі чудові церковці побудовані ще в 19 столітті, які люди направляли. З румунської сторони відкривалися чудові мальовничі краєвиди, запераючи віддих у грудях. Я почувалася як у раю.

Але бачила і таке. Хотяй минуло вже трохи часу від останньої повені, то ще нині було видно її результати. Які великі шкоди вона наробила то тяжко описати. Багато доріг було цілковито знищених, вимитих через воду. Люди будують свої хати високо на пагорбках, щоб уникнути наслідків повені.

Їду додому

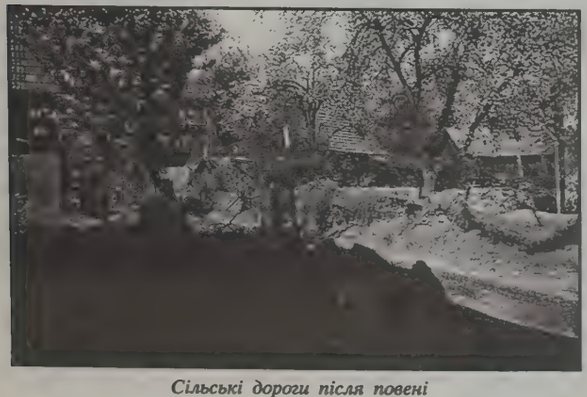
Хотяй я відвідувала родину в Тарнополі і Львові, додому верталася через Київ, бо не було достатньої кількости пасажирів щоб безпосередньо відлітати зі Львова до Торонта. Родина відвезла мене на литовище у Львові. Там мусіла знова показати багато разів свій паспорт, також перевірили мої валізки. Спірт, який мені подарувала родина, не можна було перевезти (я про це не знала). Як кару (штраф) мала заплатити 140 ам. долярів. Я хотіла віддати горілку своїй родині, але мені не дозволили повернутися назад. Тоді я сказала щоб забрали собі той спірт, але вони вимагали грошей. Я не мала тільки, що вони хотіли і віддала їм всі гроші (гривні), які мала при собі і цей спірт. *Тільки позбулася одного контрелера попала в руки наступного.* Цей перевірив мене знова. За мед який я везла хотів 10 дол. Я сказала, що попередній забрав всі мої гроші і спірт. Вкінці мене перепустив. Я при нагоді запитала чому на Україні люди так бідно живуть, то мені сказав, що така економічна ситуація є через Америку.

Перехід через митні українські служби є так неприємний, що думаю що це людей відстрашує їхати на Україну.

В Києві хотяй це був український літак служба на литовищі і в літаку говорила по російському.

Я була на Україні цілий місяць, і багато бачила. Очевидно я вивезла з України мішані враження. Почувалася там чудово, але багато справ вражало мене. Не усе можна описати, я тільки написала про некотрі з них. На загал мені було дуже приємно перебувати там на візиті, побачити свій рідний край, відновити родинні зв'язки, подивитися як живуть люди, поговорити з ними. Хотяй додому я верталася з величезною полегшею, неуявляючи собі життя на Україні в обставинах які я бачила, я заохочую всіх відвідати Україну, щоб слідкуючи тут за подіями в Україні мати кращу уяву як вони відбиваються на житті її жителів.

Могила Володимира Івасюка



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Patriarch Filaret says pope weakens impact trying not to offend Moscow

By Cindy Wooden, *Catholic News Service*

By trying not to offend the Russian Orthodox Church, Pope John Paul II will weaken the effectiveness of his visit to Ukraine, says Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Filaret of Kyiv.

"Although interest in the pope's visit is high, the results may be low," the patriarch told Catholic News Service June 21.

Bare-headed and dressed simply in a burgundy cassock, Patriarch Filaret welcomed reporters into his home in the days leading up to the pope's June 23-27 visit.

For months he has been saying how much he welcomed the pope's visit to Ukraine, unlike the leaders of Ukraine's larger Orthodox community, which is in communion with the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Patriarch Filaret, who was excommunicated by the Russian Orthodox when he established his independent church in Ukraine, said the only way for the pope to please the Russian Orthodox would be for the pope to stay at the Vatican.

In an effort to avoid offending the Russian Orthodox, Vatican officials scheduled a meeting between the pope and the Pan-Ukrainian Council of Churches, but no private papal meetings with any of the Orthodox leaders the Russian Orthodox consider to be in schism.

"If the pope does not meet me privately as patriarch, it will not help the Moscow Patriarchate think better of him," Patriarch Filaret said. "The Moscow Patriarchate will still object to the visit."

The Ukrainian church leader said he does not share Moscow's worries that the Catholic Church is trying to proselytize or steal believers in the traditionally Orthodox lands of the former Soviet Union.

Metropolitan Vladimir of Kyiv, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that is in union with the Moscow Patriarchate, did not attend the pope's ecumenical meeting.

Without all of the churches represented and without individual meetings with the leaders of the Orthodox churches, Patriarch Filaret said, most Orthodox will not pay much attention to the papal visit, which limits the trip's potential for easing ecumenical tensions.

Patriarch Filaret also said that, although it is unlikely the pope will meet with him personally, he hopes his participation in the pope's ecumenical meeting will raise the profile of his church with the Vatican.

Up until now, he said, "the Roman Catholic Church has ignored our church and does not want to have any contact with us."

The Vatican, out of respect for the structures of the Orthodox Church, has official relations only with those churches recognized as legitimate by the wider Orthodox community.

Patriarch Filaret's church, although it may have as many as 9.5 million members in Ukraine, is not recognized by any other Orthodox church.

He and the leaders of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, another unrecognized community, are involved in talks with the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople. If they are recognized as legitimate by Constantinople, "it would radically change our relations with everyone," he said.

The patriarch — and Ukrainian law — consider the Ukrainian Catholic Church, commonly referred to as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, to be a traditional part of Ukrainian life.

Patriarch Filaret said his church and the Eastern Catholic community are involved in dozens of joint projects, including pastoral ministry and religious education in the armed forces, in prisons and in schools, where students take a course in Christian ethics.

But, he said, if Pope John Paul recognizes the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church as a patriarch, that relationship will sour quickly.

"The relationship between all the Orthodox world and the Catholic Church would worsen," he said.

Currently, the Vatican refers to the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church as the major archbishop of Lviv, the principal city of Western Ukraine.

But Eastern Catholics, citing the traditional structures and titles of Eastern Christian churches, often refer to him as a patriarch and want the Vatican to make the title official.

Patriarch Filaret said the move would be particularly serious if a Catholic patriarch were named and given the see of Kyiv, the traditional heart of Ukrainian Christianity, instead of Lviv.

"It would be seen as the first step in trying to encroach upon the Orthodox Church," he said. "The Greek Catholic Church today is limited mostly to Western Ukraine."

Naming a Catholic patriarch in Kyiv, he said, "would be like the Orthodox naming a patriarch of Rome."

Patriarch Filaret said Ukraine's Christians have more immediate and important matters to attend to, and it is not just a matter of baptizing more people.

"A growing number of Christians will not do any good if there is not a spiritual, a moral renaissance," he said.

Throughout Europe, he said, the majority of "prostitutes, alcoholics, drug addicts and criminals were baptized" as children. "The quantity of Christians has not always translated into quality."

"We should shift the emphasis of ecumenism," the patriarch said. "While creating the one church of Christ is one of our aims, we do not have to think about only that. Experience shows that goal is far off and too difficult to predict.

"The more important task of the churches is to create a spiritual rebirth," he said.

Papal strategy may be wearing down Russian opposition

(CWNews.com)—As the Pope concluded a historic visit to Ukraine, in which he opened new paths to unity with Eastern Christianity, his chief spokesman made a dramatic prediction: "John Paul II will definitely go to Moscow before the end of his pontificate."

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the head of the Vatican press office, made that remark as he spoke with journalists after the final public event on the Pope's schedule: the beatification of 28 Ukrainian martyrs.

Acknowledging that Patriarch Aleksei II, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has voiced loud opposition to the prospect of a papal visit, the Vatican spokesman pointed out that Greek Orthodox leaders had also resisted the Pope's arrival. (He did not have to add that Russian Orthodox leaders, and their local allies, had opposed the Pope's visit to Ukraine.) "There is no credible obstacle" to a papal visit to Moscow, Navarro-Valls stated.

As the Pope's spokesman also acknowledged, a visit to Moscow has long been one of Pope John Paul's most cherished ambitions. Until today, however, the Vatican has always been careful to approach that possibility carefully, with mild diplomatic overtures. The bold statement by Navarro-Valls seems to show Vatican confidence that the Pontiff has worn down the opposition of the Orthodox hierarchy, making it increasingly difficult for the Moscow Patriarchate to resist a visit that most believers, Catholic and Orthodox, now see as virtually inevitable.

The Moscow Patriarchate, having unsuccessfully resisted the Pope's plan to visit Ukraine, has issued only a few public comments on the public events connected with the papal visit, and offered no comment on the prospects for a future papal trip to Moscow. A spokesman for the Patriarchate, Igor Vyzhanov, predicted that when the Pope met with the Orthodox Patriarch Filaret of Kyiv — who is not recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church — their brief public exchange would "have very negative consequences for the future development of Catholic-Orthodox dialogue."

But in practice, Pope John Paul has demonstrated his ability to appeal directly to Orthodox believers, with or without the approval of their bishops. And now — first in Greece, then in Ukraine — he has shown his willingness to visit a country where at least some Orthodox leaders are not ready to greet him. At a press conference in Kyiv, the Catholic Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz of Moscow observed that since both the Catholic bishops and the Russian political leadership have invited the Pope, all the necessary conditions have been met. The intensity of the opposition to such a visit on the part of the Russian Orthodox hierarchy can barely be overstated, however.

The FIDES news agency called attention to the publication of a stridently anti-Catholic leaflet, entitled "The Crusade of Pope Wojtyla," just before the Pope's arrival in Ukraine. That leaflet, published by a Russian Orthodox news agency and circulated through Orthodox parishes in Russia and Ukraine, used vivid language — "invasion by foreigners," "profanation of the land of our forefathers," "a threat to the fatherland" — in describing an alleged Vatican plot to encircle and subvert the Russian Orthodox Church. And this leaflet was not the work of a radical fringe group; it contained essays by Patriarch Aleksei II of Moscow and by the two most prominent prelates in Ukraine who enjoy Moscow's favor: Metropolitan Vladimir of Kyiv and Archbishop Augustin of Lviv.

Such lurid propaganda did have its effect during the papal visit, as angry Orthodox groups demonstrated against the Pope before his arrival and even during his public appearances. During the Pope's celebration of Mass in Kyiv on June 24, Fides reported, a small group of Orthodox paraded toward the altar carrying icons aloft, in the traditional Orthodox gesture of exorcism, in their protest against a Pope they characterized as the anti-Christ.

As he appraised the consequences of the visit by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine, Navarro-Valls cautioned reporters against seeing the trip exclusively in terms of the relationship between Rome and Moscow. He reminded them that the Holy Father had wanted to visit Ukraine to encourage and unite the Christians there — that he was visiting Ukraine for its own sake. Moreover, he argued that the Pope had helped the people of Ukraine to "redefine their national identity."

Observing that much of the media coverage surrounding the papal trip had focused on Vatican relations with the Russian Orthodox Church, Navarro-Valls called attention to the fact that Ukraine is a separate country, independent from the Soviet Union for the past 10 years. He also noted that Ukraine has its own history of religious and cultural diversity, as well as its own social, cultural, and economic problems to face.

"The visit by John Paul II will help Ukrainians to redefine themselves, in light of their pluralism and with respect for one another." During the Pope's trip, he remarked, "a climate was created" which should help the Ukrainian people to unite, overcoming their historic divisions.

In fact, even as the Pope flew back to Rome, news reports carried the first clear evidence of new unity among Ukrainian believers. And that news was not welcome in Moscow. Two large Orthodox groups — the Patriarchate of Kyiv and the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine — have taken the first steps toward a merger, in defiance of the Moscow Patriarchate. The Russian Orthodox Church sees both these groups as "schismatic." But by uniting forces and seeking recognition from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, the upstart Orthodox groups could hasten the process by which the Moscow Patriarchate is evidently becoming isolated from the rank and file Orthodox faithful of Ukraine.

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Американці пропонують «плян Маршалла» для України

(Українська Правда)—Американський конгресмен Курт Велдон збирається стати ініціятором реалізації в Україні «пляну Маршалла». На його думку, Україна заслуговує на значно більшу увагу і підтримку з боку законодавчої і виконавчої влади Сполучених Штатів Америки.

Про це конгресмен заявив на зустрічі у Конгресі США з главою адміністрації президента України Володимиром Литвином. Курт Велдон є співголовою групи сприяння Україні, головою підкомітету з військової готовності палати представників США.

Велдон підкреслив, що Україна важлива для США не тільки як країна, яка грає стратегічну ролю в регіоні Центрально–Східної Европи, але й тому, що дві країни мають спільні інтереси і поділяють загальні цінності.

Він визнав помилкою, що протягом тривалого часу американська адміністрація не приділяла Україні належної уваги, зосередившись, в основному, на Росії як правонаступниці СРСР.

Конгресмен і глава президентської адміністрації обговорили внутрішньополітичну ситуацію в Україні, розвиток українсько–американських відносин і перспективи поглиблення політичного діялогу.

Костенко та Удовенко надіслали рекомендації обласним організаціям Рухів

(Фракція УНР)—22 червня ввечері голови Українського Народного Руху та Народного Руху України Юрій Костенко та Геннадій Удовенко підписали ще один спільний документ – він спрямований на реалізацію підписаної 9 червня Декларації про об'єднання Руху *(Як відомо, Декларацією оголошено про початок об'єднання партій в єдиний виборчий блок на парляментських та місцевих виборах 2002 року та об'єднання в єдиний Рух після їх закінчення)*. Це орієнтовний перелік спільних заходів, які мають провести обласні організації Руху.

Окрім активної пропаганди змісту Декларації через регіональні та місцеві ЗМІ членами і прихильниками Руху, пропонується «провести урочисте спільне засідання Центральних Проводів Руху, присвячене 10 річниці Незалежності України, а також спільні засідання обласних проводів обох партій та заходи по святкуванню 10–ї річниці незалежності України.

Головам обласних організацій пропонується підготувати та узгоднити спільні пляни підготовки і проведення виборчої кампанії в областях та погодити на обласному рівні пляни спільних поїздок у регіони народних депутатів України від НРУ та УНР.

Усі запляновані заходи, говориться у зверненні, необхідно «проводити відповідно до їх попередньої координації між партнерами по блоку (ПРП, КУН та учасниками «Української правиці»)».

Чи Ваші діти, чи внуки слідкують за подіями в Україні?

Якщо ні, то:

Купіть їм передплату на «Українські вісті»

«Українські вісті» подають дуже багату інформацію про Україну і про нашу громаду в Канаді. Тому, що ми також друкуємо в англійській мові, нашу газету можуть читати і ті, котрі не читають по–українськи. Тим способом можуть познайомитися із найновішими подіями в Україні. Заповніть, будь ласка, цю форму, а ми вишлемо газету разом із повідомленням про подарунок.

Доручаю передплату на _____ примірників. Вишліть, будь ласка, на таку адресу:

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Поза Канадою: Такі самі ціни, але в американських долярах

Повітряною поштою: Подвійні ціни як «Поза Канадою».

Наша адреса: *Ukrainian News*
Suite 1, 12227 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5M 1Y9
Tel: (780) 488-3693 Fax: (780) 488-3859

День ЛУКЖК у парафії св. Йосафата в Едмонтоні

Анна Бомбак

У неділю 27–го травня, 2001 р. Перший і Другий Відділи Ліги Українських Католицьких Жінок Канади (ЛУКЖК) катедральної парафії св. Йосафата в Едмонтоні святково відзначили День ЛУКЖК.

Святкування розпочато спільною участю членок Відділів у св. Літургії, яку відслужили всеч. о. М. Планчак та всеч. о. С. Войціховський. Після проповіді о. С. Войціховський привітав членок ЛУКЖК, згадав про значний вклад цієї організації у житті парафії та загальної громади.

Після св. Літургії членки ЛУКЖК перейшли до парафіяльної залі, де було приготовано смачний обід. Після обіду, предсідниця – Соня Прийма привітала всіх присутніх, попросила пароха о. М. Планчака до слова. Всеч о. М. Планчак подякував організації ЛУКЖК за піддержку в праці парафії, особливо в духовному житті. Вказав на любов до Бога, до ближніх, на догляд хворих, немічних у лікарнях, на молитву.

Соня Прийма представила Катерину Чічак – головного промовця у програмі дня, вказала на її важливішу працю та заслужено одержані відзначення. Нагороджена почесним членством ЛУКЖК – Катерина Чічак в організації очолювала Відділ, Епархіяльну та Крайову Управи, також сповняла численні інші уряди. У громадсько–політичному житті Альберти шість років була членом Шкільної Ради, три роки у Раді міста Едмонтону та 11 років членом Уряду Альберти. Одержала відзначення ім. М. Лучковича, медаль ім. Т. Шевченка та грамоту заслуги від Ради міста Едмонтону.

У своїй промові Катерина Чічак пригадала, що святкування Дня ЛУКЖК схвалено 5–тим Конґресом ЛУКЖК у Вінніпезі в 1956 р. Беручи до уваги, що наша церква присвячує місяць травень для особливого почитання Пресв. Богородиці – Організація ЛУКЖК кожного року в останню неділю травня святково відзначує цей День. Програма Дня ЛУКЖК окремо наголошує прославу Пресв. Діви Марії – Покровительки ЛУКЖК.

У День ЛУКЖК членки Відділів сходяться у товариському – ніби родинному крузі, мають нагоду обмінятись думками, новинами. Скріпляються знайомства та взаємопошана. День ЛУКЖК дає можливість точніше розглянути цілі і завдання цілої організації, поділитись досвідом та успіхами у праці.

Членки ЛУКЖК стараються сповняти обов'язки членів Церкви і загальної громади, стараються скріпити визнання родини основною одиницею суспільства.

У програмах сходин належить включити теми пізнання і плекання релігійної і культурної спадщини; скріплення стремління до духовного життя та громадської справедливості; поглиблення знання про органі–зацію і заяву місії.

Належить пізнати окремі потреби членок, а за особ–ливу працю подати належне визнання. Молоді жінки в парафіях повинні вступати в організацію ЛУКЖК для продовження і скріплення благодійної праці.

Перший рік цього Тисячоліття визнаний роком «Добровольця». Організація ЛУКЖК має багато визначних добровольців – між ними теперішні та численні бувші голови Управ, які завжди служать з особистою посвятою.

Дорис Личак – теперішня голова І–го Відділу – сім каденцій (з перервами) очолювала цей Відділ. Була також головою централі Українців Католиків Едмонтонської Епархії та членкою Крайової Управи ЛУКЖК.

Вона з мужем Іваном проводили Епархіяльною програмою у час Днів Спадщини. Організація ЛУКЖК складає щиру подяку Дорис Личак. У глибокому відчутті її втрати – з недавним відходом у Вічність її мужа Івана – з інших всіх присутніх Катерина Чічак висловила щирі співчуття.

Другому Відділові ЛУКЖК належить признання за старання в удержанні церкви, за ведення дитячого садочка при парафії. Теперішня голова цього Відділу – Максін Закордонська сповняла цей уряд уже кілька разів. З вдячністю і щирою молитвою належить згадати першу голову цього Відділу св. п. Анну Сірман, яка дала особливий вклад праці в організації та парафії.

Усім хто дарує щиру, віддану працю належить вдячність і визнання.

Закликом до безперестанної молитви до Пресв. Богородиці про допомогу і заступництво – Катерина Чічак закінчила зворушливу доповідь. Присутні висловили подяку повстанням з місць та щедрими оплесками.

Голова ІІ–го Відділу – Максін Закордонська інформувала, що цей Відділ дуже зайнятий вдоволяючою працею. Подякувала голові і членкам І–го Відділу за приготування прийняття. Присутнім членкам ІІ–го Відділу вручила грамоти «Добровольця».

Дорис Личак склала подяку всім хто причинився до успіху святкування Дня ЛУКЖК. Присутнім членкам І–го Відділу вручила медаль Пречистої Діви Марії.

Соня Прийма подякувала всім присутнім за участь у програмі Дня ЛУКЖК.

Відспіванням «О Спомагай Нас» закінчено відзначення Дня ЛУКЖК.

Костенко: «Остаточний склад виборчого об'єднання може бути названий лише у жовтні–листопаді»

(Фракція Українського Народного Руху)—15 червня інтернет газета «Експерт–центр» провела прес–конференцію з лідером Українського Народного Руху Юрієм Костенком.

Відповідаючи на запитання щодо остаточної конфігурації правоцентристського виборчого об'єднання та участі в ньому В. Ющенка, Юрій Костенко висловив переконання, що остаточний склад може бути названий лише у жовтні–листопаді. «Зараз ведуться переговори з різними політичними партіями, але вже сьогодні є заяви від НДП, АПУ, та Трудової України щодо відсутності бажання співпрацювати з правими силами, – зокрема, маю на увазі заяву лідера НДП Пустовойтенка під час підписання угоди з Трудовою Україною. Тому в цій ситуації маловірогідною виглядає можливість В. Ющенка очолити об'єднання із названих партій», – заявив лідер Українського Народного Руху.

Найбільш впливовими політичними об'єднаннями в парламенті, які не належать до національно–демократичного табору, Юрій Костенко назвав СДПУ(о), Трудову Україну та Регіони України. За його словами, за цими силами стоїть передусім потужний капітал, при чому здебільшого російського походження, та тісні зв'язки з Президентом і його оточенням.

«Попри те, що ці сили називають себе демократичними, їх політична діяльність спрямована на формування в Україні олігархічної влади, а не домократичного суспільства, та клановой економіки, а не ринкової, і тому, як і комуністів, ми їх вважаємо своїми політичними опонентами», – заявив лідер Українського Народ–ного Руху.

Відповідаючи на запитання, чим завершиться справа Ґонґадзе, Юрій Костенко висловив думку, що тим же, чим закінчилися справи Гетьмана, Чорновола та російського журналіста Лістьєва, тобто усі політичні справи, і не лише в Україні чи Росії, але й в країнах з розвиненою демократією (вбивство Кенеді в США), – нічим.

Кучму запросили свідчити слідчій комісії парляменту

(Українська Правда)—Тимчасова слідча комісія Верховної Ради з розслідування справи Ґонґадзе та інших резонансних справ ухвалила рішення запросити на своє засідання президента України Кучму. Пропозицію про зустріч з президентом прийнято у зв'язку із заявою депутата Олександра Єльяшкевича, котрий стверджує, що президент був замовником замаху на нього в лютому минулого року.

Олександр Єльяшкевич заявив, що виходячи з останніх опублікованих роздруківок плівок Миколи Мельниченка, а також з іншої інформації, досі існує загроза для його життя.

«Я прямо заявив, що замовником мого знищення є Президент, а слідство у цьому напрямку не рухається», – сказав Єльяшкевич.

Реакція від Кучми на це запрошення поки що відсутня.

Internment monument unveiled at Spirit Lake

By Roman W. Zakaluzny

Twice during the last century Quebec's Abitibi region played host to Ukrainians. But only the second group, those who came after the First World War, wanted to be there.

January 13, 1915 saw the opening of one of the largest concentration camps ever to have existed in Canada. Known today as La Ferme, this tiny hamlet was where some 1,200 frightened and disoriented men, women and children were disembarked for a two-year confinement during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. Many had been arrested in cities like Montreal or Toronto.

"It must have been terrible for these families," said Vasyl "Marcel" Lesyk, mayor of nearby La Morandière.

"To leave a big city like Montreal, to be transported 400 miles north into the deep bush. There was no civilization around here — little Amos was just starting. It must have been something terrible to live through."

If anyone knows the Ukrainian Canadian history of the region, it is Lesyk. Born in the 1920s in Quebec to Ukrainian parents, Lesyk was christened by Father Joseph Jean, a French Canadian convert to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. His family was part of the second group, those who settled here voluntarily.

Unbeknownst to this second group, a lot of land had already been improved by people whose only crime was having immigrated to Canada with an Austro-Hungarian passport. At the start of the Great War, some 5,000 of these "men in sheepskin coats" were arrested as "enemy aliens" and their property seized, as they were interned in 24 concentration camps spread from Nanaimo to Amherst. A further 80,000 had to register with the police. Their civil liberties were suspended as a result of the War Measures Act, the same law used to intern Japanese Canadians in 1941 and French Canadians in 1970.

"I had been told it was a German camp," said Lesyk. "And even my parents never knew there were Ukrainians there. So we were quite surprised when we looked at the names and saw so many Ukrainians had been interned."

June 16, the Corporation du camp Spirit Lake, a group dedicated to preserving the memory of the internees at Spirit Lake, in association with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and the Ukrainian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, unveiled a statue by Kingston sculptor, John Boxtel, which was then blessed by Reverends Lev Chayka and Ihor Kutash of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Titled "Interned Madonna," and based on a surviving photograph, it features a Ukrainian mother holding her swaddled infant son as her daughter clings to her petticoats.

"By chance our family happened to see another internee statue by Boxtel, near Banff," said Ihor Turjansky, of Toronto, explaining why he drove 1,500 kilometres to attend the unveiling. "We were driving along the Bow Valley Parkway when we saw it, near Castle Mountain. We stopped to remember the men held there. Standing there you realize that what was done to them wasn't right, so we just had to be here for this unveiling."

To date 15 trilingual plaques and three statues have been placed by UCCLA and its supporters at internment camp sites, without federal assistance, despite Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's 1993 promise that he and the Liberal Party of Canada would support redress to the Ukrainian Canadian community for the injuries done to it during this period.

"Today's ceremony went really well," said Ghislain Drolet, coordinator of the Spirit Lake Corporation. "It just goes to show that people are more and more interested in seeing a Spirit Lake camp interpretative centre developed." And Anne Bouchard, representing local Bloc Quebecois MP, François Gendron, said "Clearly what happened here must be remembered."

The blessing of the statue at Spirit Lake

Following the unveiling ceremony, attendees made a 20-minute hike through the bush to the location of a hidden cemetery. Found in the middle of a muddy forest, infested with insects and overgrown with vegetation, the cemetery would be virtually unmarked today were it not for some sympathetic French Catholic nuns who, 30 years prior, erected wooden crosses and a sign to commemorate the "German" dead laid to rest there.

"One of most moving parts of today's event was seeing the cemetery," said Turjansky. "It raises a lot of questions. Who are the people buried in the cemetery? Do their relatives still look for them? Are they gone and there's no more to be said about them? Does anyone care or even remember that they were once alive, and in this place?"

His wife Anna was very emotionally affected by the sight of this decaying cemetery, particularly troubled that the land it sits on was sold by the Canadian government to a private farmer. "I was very saddened to see the crosses that had fallen down, thinking as I did about how these poor people came to this land to better themselves only to end up being interned, then buried in such a remote place, now almost forgotten."

"I don't believe we've learned much as yet about what happened here," said Drolet. "That's one dimension we will pursue in our proposed museum. Civilians can have their civil liberties suspended just like that in times of war. Remembering what happened to these people at Spirit Lake can be an important lesson in what can occur when we don't learn the lessons of our past."

Turjansky has a request of Ottawa as well.

"Our government shouldn't forget about these internees. They weren't here because they did something wrong. They were forced to be here and they were made to work, against their will. They were robbed of whatever chance they believed they had of bettering themselves when they immigrated to Canada. The government should acknowledge that and help us ensure that what happened here is not buried along with the bones of the innocent men, woman and children of Spirit Lake."

Roman Zakaluzny, a journalism student, represented the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association at the unveiling of the "Interned Madonna" statue. To learn more about Canada's First National Internment Operations and the UCCLA's efforts to seek restitution, please visit www.infoukes.com/uccla

Internment monument unveiled in Field, B.C.

By Eugene Harasymiw

Bright sunny skies, seasonal temperatures and a Natural Bridge setting provided an ideal backdrop for an impressive unveiling ceremony June 23, near Field, B.C.

The beautiful surroundings in Yoho National Park contrasted with the grim reality of the object of the ceremony — commemoration of the unjust internment of Ukrainian Canadians and others as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

PHOTO — IVAN KUSHNIR

Stephania Perewernycky and Zachary Kushnir lay wreaths by the Internment Monument in Field, BC.

Once again, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, with close co-operation from Parks Canada, organized the unveiling of four historical interpretive panels located adjacent to the Natural Bridge area along the Emerald Lake Road, a few kilometres from Field.

Under the capable direction of UCCLA Director of Special Projects, Borys Sydoruk, who acted as master of ceremonies, a brief but moving 50-minute program treated the 120 people gathered to commemorate one of Canada's most shameful chapters.

Rev. Bill Hupalo of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Rev. Patrick Powalinsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church officiated at the Moleben (memorial service) which opened the program.

A dozen Calgary and Alberta based organizations representing the Ukrainian Canadian community laid wreaths at the foot of the interpretive panels.

Sydoruk then read a prepared account of the history of the Camp Otter internment site.

In his remarks, he underscored the present government's decade old promise of official acknowledgement of internment wrongs — a promise yet to be fulfilled.

Sydoruk also stressed the many hardships Ukrainian prisoners endured in this and the other 23 concentration camps (this term was used by the government) set up by xenophobic authorities of the day.

Ross MacDonald, representing the Superintendent's office, Yoho National Park, expressed deep regret that the magnificent surroundings were associated with such a blot on Canada's history. He expressed his department's desire to continue to work with the Ukrainian community to achieve a satisfactory resolution involving commemoration of internment operations.

In closing, a representative from the Ukrainian Self-Reliance League read a greeting from Ukrainian Canadian Congress — B.C. Provincial Council Past President, Julia Stashuk.

Sydoruk extended UCCLA's gratitude to those who had made the trip to the site, singling out as well the excellent co-operation of Joe Jazvac of Parks Canada and his dedicated crew for site set up, and to Halyna Klid of Edmonton for translation services.

UCPBF to produce documentary on contributions of Ukrainian Canadians

(UCPBF)—The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation has launched a new initiative: the production of a television documentary dealing with the contributions of Ukrainians in Canada.

The purpose of the television production is to tell a broad segment of society what Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry have done in the arts, science, politics, sports, broadcasting and many other fields. The celebration, in video, of more than a 100 years of hard work and impressive results by members of our community will be a lasting and meaningful effort.

Marilyn Dolenko, UCPBF Secretary, started with a vision: "We need to reach young people, who might be "part" Ukrainian, or third or fourth generation Canadian. Many of these young people have not benefited from ties to the community and may suffer from a gap in their own cultural identity as a result. We want them to know and be proud of their heritage."

Dolenko is the Chair, UCPBF Documentary Working Group. The Advisory Members, connected with film and television or with a very good understanding of Ukrainians in Canada, comprise Roman Melynk from CTV; Slawko Klimkiw, Director of English Language Programming at CBC; Eugene Zaraska and Zenia Stechishin; Halya Kuchmij, a documentary filmmaker.

To ensure continuity the Executive of the UCPBF Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, Peter Sorokan and Marilyn Dolenko are members of the Group as well. They will continue to serve in this capacity after the UCPBF Convention this October.

Several approaches to the documentary were considered: relating the contributions of Ukrainians to the different waves of immigration; moving along the chronological/historic timeline; focusing on sectors. Zenia Stechishin pointed out that much material had already been covered in other documentaries such as "The Scattering of Seeds" and that a new fresh approach was needed.

"We want to bring forward the stories of both familiar and less familiar Ukrainians whose contributions to this country over the past 100 years have set remarkable and lasting standards for all Canadians", said Bashuk Hepburn, President of UCPBF.

Since 1999, Kristen Dolenko, the Project Coordinator, with experience in camera work and funding for television productions, has been working hard to give life to the documentary. her big success was in finding an outstanding producer-director for the project.

John Zaritsky, a professional filmmaker with an extensive and accomplished career in the documentary genre will be the creator and producer of the documentary series. Zaritsky lives in Vancouver and has been making documentaries since 1977. He has won more than 30 awards including an Academy Award for his 1982 documentary "Just Another Missing Kid", the story of a rich and powerful Ottawa family whose son disappeared on the way to summer school.

Zaritsky has produced a 60 page outline for the documentary focussing on remarkable individuals who are the heart of Canada's story: all are Ukrainians.

He says "Primarily, I am a storyteller; large, complex issues will be told in this documentary through dramatic personal stories." A more complete profile of Zaritsky will be available shortly.

The UCPBF wishes to acknowledge initial donations to this important and much needed initiative to the Taras Schevchenko Foundation for a sum of $10,000; the Saskatchewan Cable Network for $10,000; the UCPBF for $5,000.

The documentary outline has been submitted to the main networks, CBC, Global, CT. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation has been approached for further funding.

A Ukrainian dance school — with a twist

(SSD)—The Shumka School of Dance (SSD), part of the Shumka family, has been training excellent Ukrainian dancers since 1989. It aims to provide young dancers with a strong background in Ukrainian dance in the signature style of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers.

This is exactly what you would anticipate from a good Ukrainian dance school, isn't it? But Shumka School is doing more than just that. They seem to be looking "outside the box", with several distinguishing projects that set them apart.

Their summer camps offer kids an intensive Ukrainian dance experience surrounded by friends and nature. Focus is placed on body mechanics, fitness, nutrition, massage and Pilates techniques. Ukrainian culture is experienced through music, crafts, language and even food! Just as there is time for hard work, there is also time for play... making friends... and sharing cultural experiences.

Shumka School even offers day camps! This option is perfect for young children who are keen dancers, but are not ready for an over night camp. Extra activities will focus on cultural crafts, as well as a full-day field trip to the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

Another one of SSD's projects focuses on dance education. Since 1994, Shumka School has dedicated thousands of hours to thorough research and methodical compilation of exercises, in order to offer the only curriculum-based Ukrainian dance program in Canada. The Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance guides dancers step-by-step through nine levels of rigorous training in order to ensure proper growth and critical skill development. It provides students with a solid understanding of dance, drama and ethnography. Custom orchestrated music written by transplanted Ukrainian national, Mike Musienko. Musienko who complements the learning experience. Independent evaluations are also offered in order to ensure proper progression through the curriculum. Evaluator, Doug Rachinski remarks that evaluations "build confidence and provide students with a sense of achievement as well as provide dancers, parents and teachers alike an indication of the dancer's technical ability and progress."

Shumka School offers an intensive core-training program for dancers of all ages. Well, what's so special about that? What is unique is that they offer Enrichment classes for Ukrainian dancers from other clubs. What do you mean other clubs? Artistic Director, Vincent Rees believes, "Dancers need additional time to work on their individual technique without worrying about performances, choreography and whether they are in a straight line or not..." In order to fully master the discipline of Ukrainian dance, students at Shumka School, aged seven and up, may compliment their once-a-week class with additional training classes in Ukrainian technique, Ballet (just for Ukrainians) or both. Rees says that these classes are open to the entire community and not simply SSD students. "We have students from other clubs that come to us just for our specialty programs."

Rees is very proud of the Core and Enrichment programs which also include Pre-Beginner, Beginner and Adult classes but what's got him really excited this year is the newly developed Professional Program. Wow! A professional program makes it seem so, well... professional! It is designed for dancers 16 and up who have danced; are dancing; or wish to dance at the professional Ukrainian level. These classes are perfect for those who wish to supplement their training, or keep in shape without "club" commitment. Professional classes are open to dancers from any of the semi-professional performing groups throughout the city. Rees explains that other dance disciplines such as Jazz and Ballet offer training classes for mature dancers, but the Ukrainian community has never done that.

Four separate classes will make up the Professional Program: Ballet with John Kellner, Modern dance for Ukrainians with Tanya Alvarado, Pilates with Steve Bryson of The Body Works Pilates Studio and Professional level Ukrainian Technique with Taras Vanivsky.

Professional Ballet with Kellner, former Principal with Alberta Ballet, is a favourite in the world of Shumka as he offers a unique approach to teaching ballet. Having worked with the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers for the past two years, John is familiar with the demands that Ukrainian dancers place on their bodies and what areas typically need improvement. John's work focuses on giving Ukrainian dancers the ballet skills necessary to increase their Ukrainian technique.

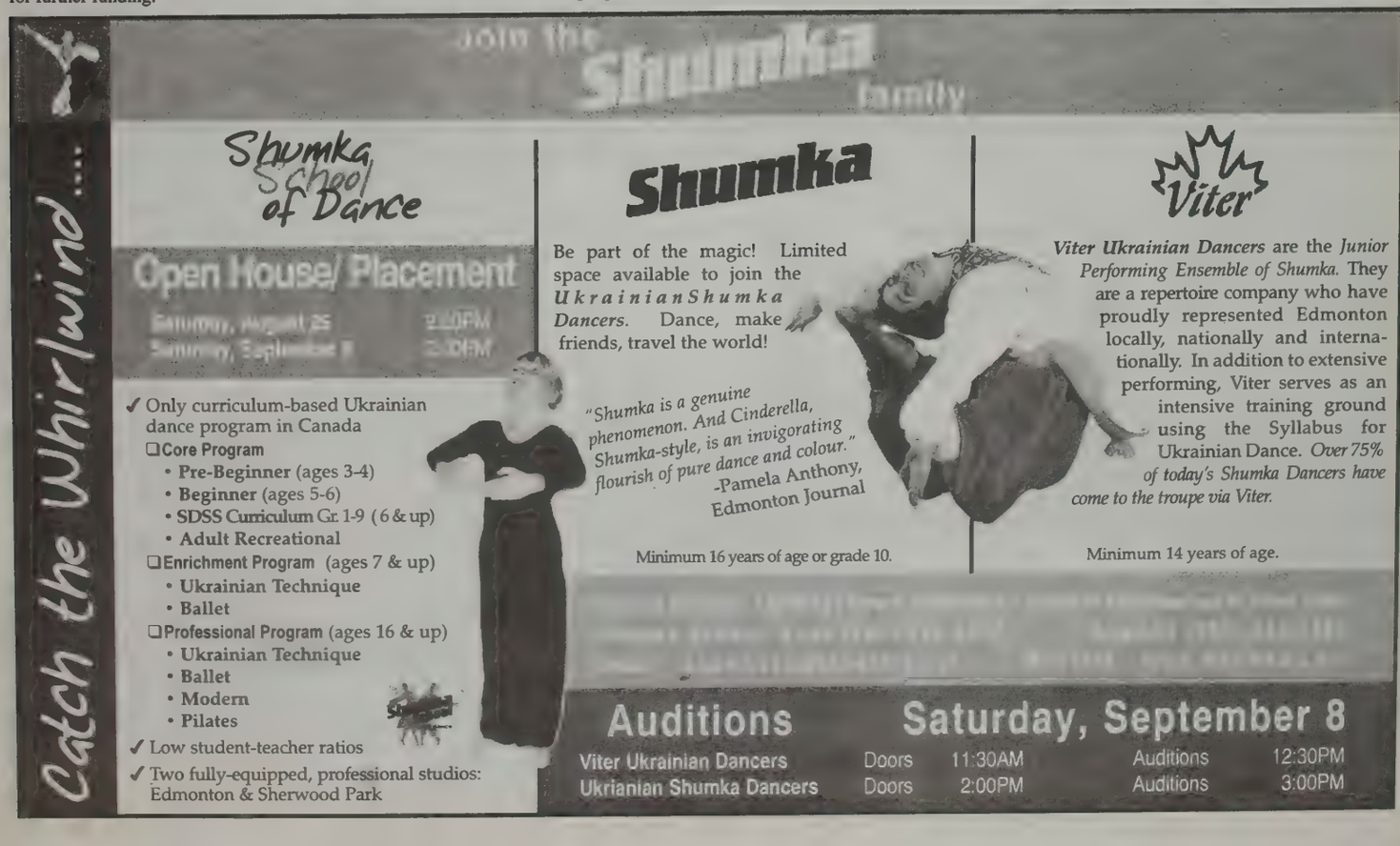
Many Ukrainian dancers would like to try Modern, but hesitate, as it is outside of their "comfort zone." This is a great opportunity for Ukrainian dancers to use their bodies in a different way, in the company of dancers with similar background and interest. Award-winning modern dance performer and choreographer, Alvarado is one of Edmonton's newest and most exciting modern dance artists. Tanya will be working with Ukrainian dancers in the fall to create a different vocabulary of movement that will give more mobility and fluidity to the spine. What an opportunity!

Vanivsky brings a world of experience to the highly demanding Professional Ukrainian Technique class. Formerly a dancer with both Unist and Virsky in Ukraine and now with the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Taras' technical ability and performance skills will inspire you

Bryson of The Body Works Pilates Studio helps to train a dancer's deep muscles to achieve efficient and graceful movement, improve alignment, control breathing and increase body awareness. Pilates delivers simultaneous stretching and strengthening in a non-impact, balanced system of body/mind exercise.

Celebrated Virsky artist, Serhij Marakov, will kick off this new and exciting program with a one week intensive summer seminar from Aug. 27-31.

For more information on any of these programs contact the Shumka School of Dance at (780) 452.5012. Email shumkasc@incentre.net or visit Shumka's website: www.shumka.com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Shumka School of Dance
Open House/ Placement
Saturday, August 25
Saturday, September 8
2:00PM
2:00PM
✓ Only curriculum-based Ukrainian dance program in Canada
❑ Core Program
• Pre-Beginner (ages 3-4)
• Beginner (ages 5-6)
• SDSS Curriculum Gr. 1-9 (6 & up)
• Adult Recreational
❑ Enrichment Program (ages 7 & up)
• Ukrainian Technique
• Ballet
❑ Professional Program (ages 16 & up)
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✓ Low student-teacher ratios
✓ Two fully-equipped, professional studios: Edmonton & Sherwood Park
Shumka
Be part of the magic! Limited space available to join the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers. Dance, make friends, travel the world!
"Shumka is a genuine phenomenon. And Cinderella, Shumka-style, is an invigorating flourish of pure dance and colour."
-Pamela Anthony, Edmonton Journal
Minimum 16 years of age or grade 10.
Viter
Viter Ukrainian Dancers are the Junior Performing Ensemble of Shumka. They are a repertoire company who have proudly represented Edmonton locally, nationally and internationally. In addition to extensive performing, Viter serves as an intensive training ground using the Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance. Over 75% of today's Shumka Dancers have come to the troupe via Viter.
Minimum 14 years of age.
Auditions Saturday, September 8
Viter Ukrainian Dancers Doors 11:30AM Auditions 12:30PM
Ukrianian Shumka Dancers Doors 2:00PM Auditions 3:00PM

B.C. holds sixth annual Ukrainian Cultural festival

By Gladys Andreas,
President & Festival Coordinator

Over 1800 people attended the 6th Annual B. C. Ukrainian Cultural Festival in Burnaby, Apr. 28-29, including 300 children who competed for Gold, Silver or Bronze medals in dancing.

In six short years the number of participants has more than doubled with a whopping 70% increase in the number of entries from last year.

Apr. 28, upon entering the Michael J. Fox Theatre foyer participants and spectators were treated to a spectacular sight: British Columbia's largest Ukrainian Easter Egg. In 1984, the Abbotsford Fraser Valley Ukrainian Cultural Society members had an idea to make something uniquely Ukrainian to take to events and enter in parades. Stan Pilat made the steel frame hoops, wrapped it in plastic, sprayed it with foam, and sanded the egg. Kevin Plaskow, Pauline Vilko, and Shirley Pospolita painted it. Nick Warawa and Johnny Ewanciw made the nest, a large box, that is used for storage and transportation of the egg. It has been in Canada Day parades, on display at the local Mall, and recently at the Folk Rhythms Festival in Abbotsford.

Eugene Lupynis, Master of Ceremonies, opened the festival; Tamara Antoniuk and Sonia Church sang O Canada in English and Ukrainian while three Royal Canadian Mountain Police dressed in Red Serge stood at attention to a full theatre. The backdrop on stage was a six-foot wreath dressed in red, white, yellow, and blue flowers with thirty-foot ribbons draped to represent the colourful wreaths that many dancers wear with their costumes.

Participating dance groups were: Yalenka of Prince George; Sosna of Kamloops; Zirka of Vernon and Vancouver; Veselka of Kelowna and Victoria; Yevshan of Abbotsford; Cameron Sopilka, Promenia and Volya of Langley; Kvitka of Surrey. We welcomed two groups from Edmonton, Alberta Yatran and Zorianka.

Well-qualified adjudicators Lauren Burke of Edmonton, Victoria Ruban-Kilpartick and Olga Ruban of White Rock, Lynn Taciuk of Surrey, Halia Hirniak of Pitt Meadows, and Tania Mysak of Vancouver spent the day evaluating dancers from the age of four to 18.

Due to the number of entries a separate stage had to be built to accommodate all the dancers. Eric Andreas, MC, opened the competition for solos, duets and trios, which were performed on the upstairs stage while all groups (four or more) danced on the main stage auditorium.

Special Trophy awards were given to Promenia of Langley, the newest dance group in B. C., for their presentation of Privit a Welcome Dance and to Zorianka of Edmonton for receiving the highest marks in Hopak the National Dance of Ukraine.

Adjacent to the auditorium an Easter Egg workshop area with qualified instructors helped tiny tots 4 years and older create designs raw eggs (special Easter Egg designs) using different colours of which each has a special meaning.

Hospodar Dan and Hospodynia Lydia Huzyk welcomed and greeted those who entered the display area. A Ukrainian farmyard designed by Steve Kowal of Edmonton (which took him six months to build) dominated this area. The model built in 1991 has been displayed at the annual Ukrainian Heritage Days in Edmonton as well as other towns in Northern Alberta. Items for sale included Easter Eggs by Margaret Homeniuk of Surrey, Larry Herchak of Richmond and Shirley Stasiuk of Coquitlam, hand made Ukrainian dolls by Catharyn Huryn of Surrey; books by Danny Evanishen of Summerland — BC's author of Ukrainian folk tales and funny stories about pioneers (Danny was on hand to autograph his books); wheat weaving crafts by Irene Topolnitsky of Edmonton who was on hand to demonstrate her skills; and lacquer pendants with Byzantine icons and Ukrainian dance themes designed by Mykhail Klymych, an artist from Kyiv, Ukraine, displayed by Taisa Monastyrski of Vancouver; Ann Kvitka Kozak of North Vancouver - Performing Arts Society of B. C. — had their own video Vinkopletennia and other related items. Also available were CDs, audiocassettes, and videos of various local and western Canadian artists. Myrna Arychuk of Cascade Travel assisted those who are planning a trip to Ukraine. The BCUCF table had various fund raising items for sale. On display were designer breads (Koroval, Kolach, Paska and Babka) by Dianna Krawchuk of Ladner and table featuring Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian School information.

Leaving the display area, one heard Ukrainian music provided by the Ukrainian Dulcimer Ensemble of the lower mainland. As you entered the cafeteria the air was filled with the aroma of soul food, Pyrohy, Holuptsi, Kobassa and Borscht. Just outside the cafeteria was the aroma of fresh bread baked from a portable peech A *peech* is an outside oven made out of clay or bricks, and heated by a wood fire. Occasionally you will still find a *peech* oven in use on the prairies today especially built for family reunions, and for the Vegreville Pysanka Festival to name a few. The Fraser Valley Ukrainian Cultural Society members and friends built this mobile *Peech Oven* in the summer of 2000 for the first Folk Rhythms Festival in Abbotsford.

April 29, a lunch of traditional Ukrainian food was served, followed by a concert. The Svitanok Performing Arts Society of B. C. under the musical direction of Ann K. Kozak presented Vinkopletennia an original folk musical of a traditional Ukrainian Bridal Shower performed by the Svitanok Chorus. After a short intermission some of the winners from the dance competition performed to an enthusiastic crowd with Adam Kozak as MC.

The pryvit

Bandurists to perform at Kyiv celebration

On Aug. 15 the Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus will leave for Kyiv to participate in the official concert ceremonies commemorating the Tenth Anniversary observances of Ukraine's declaration of Independence. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council has designated the Chorus as the official representative cultural group from the United States.

On the eve of independence in June of 1991, the Chorus completed a historical 14-city tour throughout major cities in Ukraine. The performances were received with great enthusiasm and rave reviews — especially in areas of Ukraine where national consciousness had been dormant. The Chorus was subsequently awarded the Shevchenko State Prize, Ukraine's highest cultural award. The Chorus again returned to Ukraine in 1994 touring regions of southern Ukraine and Crimea.

The Chorus was formed in Kyiv in 1918. It survived both Soviet & Nazi occupations, and since 1949, has enjoyed the freedom of artistic expression in the United States of America. This male chorus is based in Detroit, but has members throughout North America: Alberta, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Ontario and Pennsylvania. The Chorus has preserved and promoted the art of the bandura by amassing an extensive discography, and by touring North America, Europe, Australia and Ukraine.

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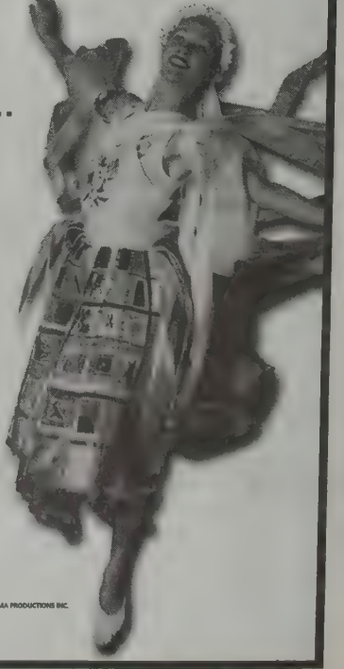

Reports of ban on Radio Liberty chief denied

By Peter Byrne, Kyiv Post Staff Writer

Two days after reports surfaced that the American bureau chief of Radio Liberty's Ukraine service had been threatened by Ukrainian security agents and possibly kicked out of the country, the Foreign Affairs Ministry denied the story.

Viktor Kiryk, who heads the Foreign Ministry's consular affairs section, told journalists June 19 that neither Ukraine's State Security Service (SBU) nor the Interior Ministry had informed his ministry of any decision to declare Roman Kupchinsky — chief of the Ukrainian Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) — persona non grata.

Reports that Kupchinsky had been banned first surfaced June 15 when the news agency UNIAN quoted Kupchinsky as saying that men resembling security agents had approached him in Kyiv on June 14 to express dissatisfaction with his station's coverage of the ongoing political scandals in the country.

Kupchinsky said the men informed him of a "top level" decision to expel him from Ukraine and to bar him from returning, according to UNIAN.

Kupchinsky left the country June 15 and was at RFE/RL headquarters in Prague by June 18. When contacted there by the Post, Kupchinsky withheld comment.

SBU spokesman Oleksandr Skripnyk also declined to comment on the threats to expel Kupchinsky.

"We do not comment on expulsion cases," he told the Post on June 18.

After seeing press reports, however, the U.S. Embassy was in contact with Ukrainian authorities on June 16 and 17. The embassy said it was assured that Kupchinsky's status had not changed and that he was free to enter Ukraine as before.

"Our understanding is that the Foreign Ministry confirmed today at a press briefing that Mr. Kupchinsky is not banned from entering Ukraine and that he retains his local press accreditation," a U.S. Embassy spokesperson said June 19.

RFE/RL welcomed the news of the Foreign Ministry that Kupchinsky will not be barred from entering Ukraine. "We are especially pleased because this clarifies and corrects statements made to Kupchinsky by other Ukrainian officials," the station said.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service has broadcast a number of stories that have irked Ukrainian authorities. Among them have been on-air interviews with security guard Mykola Melnychenko, who fled Ukraine last November after releasing recordings that allegedly contain the voice of President Leonid Kuchma plotting several high-level crimes including the disappearance of murdered opposition journalist Heorhiy Gongadze.

Melnychenko was granted political asylum in the United States in April.

Briefy

Rada says Ukraine not yet democracy

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian legislature on June 20 held hearings devoted to the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the country's constitution, Interfax reported. In a draft document including conclusions from the hearings, lawmakers said Ukraine has so far failed to fulfill the main constitutional tenet of becoming a democratic country ruled by law. The document also noted that human rights in Ukraine are violated on a mass scale.

Rada passes two codes

(RFE/RL)—The parliament on June 21 approved a Budget Code and an Entrepreneurial Code, the "Eastern Economic Daily" reported. Interfax reported that the same day the parliament also passed a package of laws to regulate the functioning of the judicial branch after the so-called transitory provisions of the constitution expire on June 28.

Lviv Rukhs begin reunification process

(Eastern Economist)—The heads of Rukh-U and Rukh-K regional chapters in Lviv signed a declaration of unification, June 20. The declaration states that the Rukh's will unite in a single bloc for the 2002 Verkhovna Rada elections and that a broader unification would begin right after the elections. Rukh divided into two parts in the spring of 1999.

Greens plan own Rada run

(Eastern Economist)—The Green party of Ukraine will take part in elections independently, stated Green leader Vitaliy Kononov, June 13. He said that the Greens were not holding talks with anyone about joining any blocs. Kononov said the Greens would only consider joining with other parties after elections and only in terms of forming a parliamentary majority for approving necessary laws.

Yushchenko's wife files privacy suit

(Eastern Economist)—Ex-premier Viktor Yushchenko's wife Kateryna Chumachenko has filed a Hr 200,000 suit against Mikhail Leontiev, author of the Odnako program on the Russian ORT TV channel, and a number of Ukrainian mass media. She described the broadcasts and publications as direct interference in her private life, said Chumachenko's attorney Mykola Poludenny.

Pipeline controversy continues amid renewed skepticism

By Michael Lelyveld

(RFE/RL)—Moscow's new envoy to Ukraine has defended the country against charges that it is diverting Russian gas. But the statement may only raise more doubts about Russia's Gazprom and its role in the near abroad.

Speaking on June 14 at a press conference with Prime Minister Anatoliy Kinakh in Kyiv, Viktor Chernomyrdin said Ukraine is no longer taking Russian gas from pipelines that cross the country.

The support from the former Russian prime minister came 10 days after Gazprom accused Ukraine of continuing to siphon gas and sell it to Poland illegally.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma reacted angrily to the charge, saying, "Ukraine has violated the gas delivery terms not a single time," the Interfax news agency reported.

The state-owned gas company Naftogaz Ukrayiny followed with a more qualified statement, saying that it has not allowed any siphoning since last June and that none took place during last winter's heating season.

The company's statement stopped noticeably short of Kuchma's blanket assurance that Ukraine had never taken any unauthorized gas.

Last August, Kuchma told the German news magazine "Der Spiegel," "Moscow is pumping over 130 billion cubic meters [of gas] per year to the West through our country. What's an odd billion siphoned off compared to that?"

Kuchma also glossed over an incident in January, when Ukrainian power companies admitted to taking Russian gas rather than submit to a complete cutoff by Gazprom's trading partner, Itera.

The various versions make it hard to tell who speaks with authority about the problem that has roiled relations between the two nations for the past decade. The siphoning has also become an energy security issue for Europe, which relies on Russia for one-fourth of its gas. Over 90 percent of the fuel flows through the former Soviet lines in Ukraine.

Chernomyrdin, who once served as Gazprom's chairman, seems to have overruled current board member Yurii Komarov, who had cited Ukraine for the diversions the week before.

It is unclear whether Chernomyrdin is speaking for Gazprom or only representing the interests of the Russian state, which owns 38 percent of its stock. The Russian government often treats any debt to Gazprom as its own, while Gazprom regularly acts as a foreign policy arm of the state in the near abroad.

It also seems odd that it would take Kuchma over a week to react to the charges lodged publicly by Komarov. Chernomyrdin has been holding talks on key issues including the merger of Russian and Ukrainian power grids and the joint use of pipelines, the RIA-Novosti news agency said. The events suggest that the siphoning claim is being used as a tool in Russia's bid to control the pipelines.

Moscow has been working a two-track strategy by negotiating with Poland for a new pipeline route to bypass Ukraine. Poland has put off its approval and sought concessions, while Russia has kept up its pressure on Ukraine. Moscow's message to Warsaw is that it may win the old route and not need Poland after all.

Gazprom's mysterious ways have been compounded by its accounting of Ukraine's debt. Last week, the company said that Ukraine owed it $2.5 billion dollars, an increase over previous estimates of $2 billion dollars. But the Petroleum Argus newsletter noted that Gazprom has not sold any gas directly in Ukraine for the past two years.

The sales have been handled by Itera, raising the question of whether Gazprom is counting Itera's debts as its own. The two have denied ownership links, despite widespread skepticism. It is unclear whether Chernomyrdin is acting in the interests of either company, neither, or both.

Chernomyrdin's son is said to own stakes in companies that have benefited from Gazprom business. According to disclosures in Gazprom's annual report, Chernomyrdin's children are "significant" shareholders in Stroitransgaz, a Gazprom pipeline contractor, the "Financial Times" said.

In the meantime, the Agence France Presse news agency reported that Gazprom's new chief executive, Alexei Miller, is interested in selling up to 5 percent of the company to Royal Dutch/Shell, the leading competitor for the Ukrainian pipelines. A combination of interests could leave Kyiv with nowhere to turn.

While questions go unanswered, *Russia's strategies seem* to be taking a toll on Ukraine, raising the possibility that it will soon make a deal on its pipelines.

HIV cases skyrocket while government ponders options

By Lily Hyde

(RFE/RL) — From every corner of the world, government leaders, non-government organizations, and people living with HIV are converging in New York for a special three-day UN session dedicated to prevention and treatment of AIDS and HIV.

The proposal for the session was put forward by Ukraine, which has seen an explosive rise in infections since the first case of HIV was registered 14 years ago. There are now over 38,000 registered cases in Ukraine, but the UN AIDS program estimates the real number may be closer to 250,000. The country is at the heart of the most recent and fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the world — that of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Ukraine's decision to initiate the session is seen as an indication that it recognizes the seriousness of the problem and is ready to take serious steps to fight it. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma last year pronounced HIV a national emergency, and a new national strategy lays down comprehensive plans for prevention, care, and treatment.

Andrej Cima, inter-country adviser for UNAIDS in Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus, says he hopes Ukraine will be able to demonstrate its commitment at the session:

"The draft national strategy on HIV/AIDS, which has been [in development for more than a year], is about to be adopted. So let us hope Ukraine [will be ready to] bring that document to New York. A program on mother-to-child transmission is also quite advanced, and we understand that Ukraine is willing to make a commitment, in the coming years, [to make sure] all HIV-infected pregnant women and their children will have access to treatment."

The vast majority of HIV cases in Ukraine are among intravenous drug users infected through needle-sharing. But Ukraine also has a high rate of mother-to-child transmission, when HIV-positive women pass on the virus to their children during birth. This can easily be prevented with antiretroviral drugs, but the drugs, which are expensive, are scarce in Ukraine. Antiretroviral treatment, widely used in the West, can also suppress HIV in regular patients to prevent the onset of AIDS.

Alla Scherbynska is the director of the Ukrainian AIDS Center. She says the UN session should have important results for Ukraine, especially in improving access to treatment:

"The Ukrainian delegation expects a lot from this session. First and foremost the session is aimed at developing international efforts and consolidating those efforts in the fight against AIDS, increasing the scale of the struggle, supporting people living with HIV/AIDS, and creating conditions that would make antiretroviral therapy possible."

One positive sign is that Ukraine — along with several African and South American countries — has been admitted to the Accelerated Access initiative, a joint program of UN agencies and the five largest pharmaceutical companies which hold the patents on antiretroviral drugs. Under the program, Ukraine can negotiate to receive drugs at sharply discounted prices.

Yevgeny Krivosheyev, a member of the Ukrainian delegation to a preparatory UN session in May, says the UN session is an important opportunity for Ukraine and its neighbors to speak out about the seriousness of the epidemic in the region:

"It's the chance to attract world attention to the situation happening now in Eastern Europe. All discussion of the problem of the spread of AIDS in the world is centered on Africa. From our point of view, Eastern Europe and Ukraine are a hidden Africa. If no action is taken in five, maximum 10, years, we'll have the same situation here. It's still not too late to draw attention to this problem."

Krivosheyev is a member of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Two other network members will be among the Ukrainian government delegation present at this week's UN session. Thanks to the insistence of such delegates, the session's final declaration will include a call to all governments to ensure the participation of people living with HIV in drafting future prevention and treatment programs.

NATO to sponsor pilot project preventing floods in Ukraine

NATO will donate more than US$90,000 for a multi-nation project to prevent floods in a western Ukrainian region that saw severe rain damage this spring, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said June 20, according to the Associated Press.

Donations will also come from Canada, Poland, Hungary and other NATO members, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Experts from Ukraine, neighboring Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, several other European countries and the United States are expected to discuss the pilot project in Brussels on June 28-29.

Western Ukraine, along with parts of Hungary and Romania, have suffered from heavy flooding of the Tisza River in recent years. This spring, Ukrainian authorities evacuated thousands of people from Zakarpattia, the region where the project will be focused.

Pictured left to right are the ladies that prepared the tea and our pastor, they are: Anne Kuzmyn, Angela Lupyczuk, Annie Charanduk, Nellie Husack, Helen Popil, Father Bill Hupalo, Sr. Aloysia Safranowicz, Irene Andruschak, Stephanie Sakundiak, Helen Modney, Sr. Janet Kozak, Mary Bereziuk, Coordinator. Also helping were Kateryna and Volodymyr Papirchuk, Maria Bilek and Martha Danylo.

Assumption bids farewell to Sr. Aloysia

By Mary Bereziuk

June 10, parishioners bid a fond farewell to Sister Aloysia, SSMI at a "Tea" held in her honor at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church Auditorium in Calgary with over a 100 people present after the first Ukrainian Liturgy and some 100 people after the second English Liturgy. Last year Sr. Aloysia celebrated 70 years of her service to God, Ukrainian people, and country.

Stephanie Sakundiak pinned on a yellow orchid corsage, as the *Surma* choir under the direction of Ed Sakundiak sang *Mnohaya Lita*.

Sr. Janet Kozak, Ann Charanduk and Nellie Husack welcomed guests at the door. Andy Ilnycky greeted Sr. Aloysia and all the guests. Sr. Aloysia said the blessing before the tea began. The tea pourers were: Sr. Adrieanne Charanduk and Helen Hladyshevsky; Kateryna Paprichuk and Ann Ilnycky; Stephanie Sakundiak and Helen Popil; Angela Lupyczuk and Mary Bereziuk; Irene Andruschak and Helen Modney.

After the second Liturgy the English Choir sang a special song for Sister. Father Bill Hupalo presented Sr. Aloysia with a gift. Bereziuk thanked Sister for the many deeds sh performed at our parish and wished that God would richly bless her in the days ahead.

Sr. Aloysia told us of how when she was a very little girl she liked to dress up with a white pillow case across her chest and her mother's black shawl on her head, imitating the Sister Servants that often visited their home. At age 15 she entered the convent and after taking her vows she was sent to school to be educated as a teacher. She taught for 24 years in Canada and 20 years in the United States. The last 15 years Sr. Aloysia was in Calgary were she was dearly loved by all. After 71 years of active service she has earned a little less demanding work and has been reassigned to Mundare.

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Vinok performs a Mexican Dance.

Vinok holds fundraiser

(Vinok Worldance)—June 16 Vinok Worldance held its annual Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre.

This year's theme was "Ports of Call - A Fun Fantasy Cruise", and was very well attended.

The Grand Ballroom was transformed into a Cruise ship docked at a port in Mexico. Guests were greeted at the door by the "Captain", treated to exotic drinks and enjoyed Mexican appetizers. The Chateau Louis served a delicious Chinese buffet followed by decadent desserts.

As the evening's highlight Vinok treated guests to a performance of dances from Mexico, China and the Philippines. Special guests were the Edmonton based Polynesian group "Tropical Breeze" who tied together the evening's Cruise theme.

After their performance Vinok taught folkdances to a very enthusiastic crowd. Another highlight of the evening was the Silent Auction. This year's items up for auction included autographed memorabilia signed by Mel Gibson, Denzel Washington, Jason Alexander and Julia Child.

The night ended with the drawing of a winner for Vinok's raffle of a $1495.00 bottle of 200th Anniversary Glengarioch Single Malt Scotch. The winner was Laurie Simonson of Edmonton.

Edmonton-based Vinok is Canada's foremost Dance Company featuring music and dance from over 40 cultures from around the world.

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Dynamo wins ninth straight title

Sports

Dynamo Kyiv scored twice in the last six minutes to clinch their ninth straight Ukrainian title with a 2-1 win over Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk on June 19, reported Reuters.

Dynamo seemed to be heading towards a surprise home defeat on the final day of the season before Andriy Nesmachny and Olexander Melashchenko rescued them with goals in the 84th and 85th minutes respectively.

With time running out and Dynamo needing a win to finish first, fullback Nesmachny beat Dnipro goalkeeper Mykola Medin from an almost impossible angle to level the score at 1-1. Less than a minute later, Ukraine International striker Melashchenko capitalized on Dnipro's state of shock to hit the winner from close range.

Andriy Spivak put Dnipro, who had already secured third place and had little to play for, ahead in the 49th minute when he raced past two defenders and beat Olexander Shovkovsky with a low shot from the edge of the box.

At the final whistle, hundreds of Kyiv fans in the packed 18,000-seat Dynamo Stadium ran onto the pitch to celebrate with the players as thousands of riot police looked on. However, long-serving Dynamo coach Valeriy Lobanovsky and his top assistant Anatoliy Pusach did not attend the match and the television commentator said both were unwell.

"It was one of the most difficult seasons in the team's history, thus we're very happy with winning the title," said Dynamo assistant coach and former Soviet international Anatoliy Demyanenko. "Today, our team showed true character and deserved to win."

Dnipro coach Mykola Fedorenko praised his players in defeat. "This was our best match in the whole season, and my players did all they could," he said. "We just lost to a better team." Dynamo ended the season with 64 points from 26 matches, just a point ahead of Shakhtar Donetsk, who beat city neighbours Metalurh 3-1.

Ukraine striker Andriy Vorobei scored twice as Shakhtar raced to a 3-0 lead after the first 23 minutes to finish the league's top scorer with 21 goals. But it was a small consolation for Vorobei and his team mates as Shakhtar finished second to Dynamo for the fifth consecutive year.

Dynamo will hardly have time to celebrate their title and enjoy a break as the new season starts on July 7.

Ukrainian Final Standings

	GP	W-D-L	GF:GA
Dynamo	26	20-4-2	58:17
Shakhtar	26	19-6-1	71:21
Dnipro	26	17-4-5	37:18
Metalurh D	26	11-9-6	30:24
Metalurh M	26	12-4-10	35:27
CSKA	26	10-10-6	30:23
Metalurh Z	26	9-8-9	28:31
Tavria	26	8-9-9	24:31
Metalist	26	8-7-11	27:37
Karpaty	26	9-3-14	33:42
Kryvbas	26	6-6-14	22:36
Vorskla	26	6-5-15	16:29
Stal	26	3-6-17	19:49
Nyva T	26	2-3-21	20:65

Ukraine advances to second round of FIFA World Youth Championship

Ukraine has advanced to the second round of the FIFA World Youth Championship after finishing first in its group during preliminary play.

Ukraine sealed first place following a draw with the United States in Mendoza, Argentina, June 23.

Ukraine ended up with a 1-0-2 in Group C, followed by the United States with 1-1-1. China also finished 1-1-1, but was relegated to third place because the Americans had a better goal difference, 5-3 to 1-1, reported the Associated Press.

Chile was last with a 1-2 record.

Ukraine now faces Paraguay in the second round.

Other second round matchups are Argentina and China, the United States and Egypt, Brazil and Australia, France and Germany, Ghana and Ecuador, Costa Rica and the Czech Republic and Angola versus Netherlands.

Ukraine clinched the draw with the United States with a last-minute goal.

Kenny Arena, the son of U.S. national team coach Bruce Arena, put the Americans ahead in the 39th minute, but Denis Stoyan tied it in the 90th minute on a 40-yard free kick off the hands of goalkeeper Delvin Countess.

"Ukraine definitely put us under a lot of pressure and in the 89th minute they got what they came for," Countess said. "It is unfortunate that it happened, but fortunately we are going to go ahead to the second round."

Ukraine got off to a superb debut in the Championship on June 17, trouncing Chile 4-2.

Olecksiy Byelik fired the first goal home for the eastern Europeans in the 15th minute when he pummeled a shot past a diving Chilean goalkeeper Johnny Herrera from just inside the area.

Andriy Herasimenko made it 2-0 in the 36th minutes with a shot from two meters (yards) off the back left line.

But Chile, cheered on by a majority of the near 7,000 spectators in the 36,000-capacity Malvinas Argentinas stadium, retaliated a minute later when Rodrigo Millar slipped the ball in through a packed area following a free kick from the right.

Ukraine took the pressure in stride and in the 40th minute almost got the third when Serhiy Symonenko pounded a shot from outside the area that Herrera was lucky to finger away over the bar.

Five minutes into the second half the side struck luckier and Byelik put in the third.

Ruslan Valeev got the fourth goal with another driving shot from the edge of the box in the 78th minute.

From then on, the Ukrainians took control and the spectators became increasingly impatient with Chile's feeble attacks. By the end the match, the South American youths were being insulted from all corners.

Sebastian Pardo clinched the side's second goal four minutes into injury time and just seconds before the final whistle but it hardly raised a cheer.

Ukraine played China to a scoreless draw.

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This summer *Help Us Help the Children,* a project of Children Of Chornobyl Canadian Fund, will hold its sixth annual summer camp for orphans in Ukraine. Over 425 children, aged 12-18, from orphanages throughout Ukraine, will participate in the ***Help Us Help The Children*** Summer Camp 2001 - "Children for Children". Once again, the camp will be held in the town of Vorokhta, in the Carpathian Mountains. The program is designed to raise the children's awareness of the power they hold in shaping their lives. They will take part in workshops intended to develop their self-confidence, independence, team-work and self-esteem. ***Help Us Help The Children's*** North American and Ukrainian volunteers will continue to instill in the children an understanding of Ukraine's history and culture and to cultivate a sense of belonging and pride in their country.

Once again, we appeal to you to assist ***Help Us Help the Children*** and sponsor an orphan to Summer Camp 2001. It costs $160.00 for one child to attend camp. This includes their transportation to camp, accommodation, three meals a day, new shoes, socks, a hat, T-shirts, pants, towels, and hygiene items such as toothpaste and shampoo. With a minimum donation of $50.00 you will receive a picture of the child you helped sponsor and a thank-you letter from the child as well as a tax receipt. Please help us in creating an unforgettable two weeks for an orphan in Ukraine this summer!

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Foreign investment forum held

Business

(Eastern Economist)—Premier Anatoliy Kinakh addressed over 200 business and government representatives on the prospects for attracting investment and the government's intentions at the Ukraine Foreign Investment Forum organized within the framework of the 5th plenary session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council. "The government has a huge task before it, the first part of which is to entrench the irreversibility of market reforms in this country." He also announced that June 20 an advisory body would be established to coordinate the efforts of the Cabinet and the Verkhovna Rada. He said this had to be a permanent, systematic relationship. "There's no time for haphazard, unplanned actions."

In an unscheduled speech, US Ambassador Carlos Pascual called Ukraine's economic performance in the last 18 months "remarkable" but warned that unless the rule of law was entrenched, the country would hit a "glass ceiling." In addition to calling for the Tax and Land Codes and the law on the judiciary to be passed, he noted that enshrining minority shareholders' right was critical: "Otherwise, Ukraine is denied a very important source of capital." He also noted the importance of intellectual property rights, "because this is a country with great intellectual capacity." Without protection, however, he said investors would be afraid to develop technology here "for fear that it would promptly be stolen."

Enterprise Development Chair Oleksandra Kuzhel pointed out that the problems that were being constantly named affected domestic manufacturers as much as they did foreign investors: "There is no conflict of interests here, we are all on the same side." She described current registration practices — going to the tax office, the police and so on, where schedules were often limited to one or two hours, once or twice a week — as farcical and said all this would be eliminated. "No other CIS country has agreed to the level of deregulation that President Kuchma has pushed through in the last 2.5 years," she said.

While noting that the first six OblEnergo sales were successful, Credit-Suisse First Boston Director Oleksandr Bazarov said without full structural reform, the next round of privatization would be doomed.

STA Director Mykola Azarov noted among his administration's efforts to develop a "partnership" with taxpayers the establishment of an office to deal with the 30% of Ukrainian taxpayers who represent 80% of government revenues. He was particularly critical of the number of tax breaks still enjoyed despite being removed from the books. Referring to the saying about death and taxes, Azarov quipped: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to assure you that in Ukraine you will not suffer death by taxes."

EBRD prepared to raise investment in Ukraine

(Eastern Economist)—The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is prepared to increase its investments into the Ukrainian economy, although these investments are already considerable, EBRD President Jean Lemierre said during a meeting with Premier Anatoliy Kinakh, June 19. Commenting on bilateral relaticns, Lemierre said it was important for him that, after 10 years of independence, Ukraine was seeing growth, which began to form last year.

In turn, Kinakh assured Lemierre that the new Ukrainian government would expand cooperation with the EBRD.

"We will continue to attach great significance to cooperation with the EBRD, especially in the sphere of structural reforms, the creation of favorable conditions for small and medium-sized businesses and the reformation of the fuel and energy sector, in particular, in privatizing its strategic facilities," Kinakh said.

As well, Lemierre met President Leonid Kuchma to discuss construction on reactors at the Khmelnytsky and Rivne Atomic Energy Stations. Kuchma repeated that Ukraine was interested in their being completed and expected that the G-7 would fulfill its obligations in the matter. Lemierre also said the EBRD welcomed Kuchma's latest steps in reforming the economy.

After meeting with Lemierre, President Kuchma launched a series of meetings with participants of the Consultative council on foreign investments.

Kuchma met a delegation from Sumitomo and from Boeing. Sumitomo representatives told Kuchma of new projects that their company was involved in, including modernization of the KryvorizhStal steel mill and regional communication networks, reconstruction of the Shebelinka-Kyiv gas pipeline, and the creation of an industrial park in Kyiv oblast.

Boeing representatives reported on progress of the Sea Launch program, in which the PivdenMash plant and Pivdenne design bureau are participating.

Kuchma suspends energy selloffs

(Kyiv Post)—President Leonid Kuchma has ordered Ukraine's new government1 to suspend the planned privatization of electricity generating and distribution companies, news wires reported.

"The head of state instructed the government and the State Property Fund to temporarily halt the disposal by any means of the shares and property of these (energy) companies," Reuters reported Kuchma's press service as saying.

Kuchma put the brake on the sale of the regional energy companies due to what the press service said were serious doubts about the ability of unspecified companies interested in buying Ukrainian energy companies to provide long-term effective management and development, AP reported.

It also said market conditions were not favorable for speeding up privatization of energy enterprises and cited the need to analyze already-completed deals and work out a new strategy of privatizing energy companies.

Foreign lenders have urged Ukraine speed up the privatization of its notoriously corrupt energy sector. The International Monetary Fund has made it a key condition to unlock credits to Ukraine under a US$2.6 billion loan program.

In April, the state sold controlling shares in six regional energy suppliers to U.S. and Slovak companies for a total of $160 million.

The sale of the six distributors had been intended to kick-start a process that would lead to the privatization of all 27 distributors in Ukraine and eventually also of electricity generating companies.

Ukraine lost 20 % of grain to bad weather

Ukraine lost at least 20 percent of its grain crop because of heavy rains this month, Agriculture Minister Ivan Kyrylenko said June 19, as reported by the Associated Press. The soaked land is too damaged to use again this season, Kyrylenko said. Heavy winds and rainstorms hit several Ukrainian regions the previous week and bad weather is expected to continue until the end of June. Farmers will be able to collect the grain harvest in July only in five southern and eastern Ukrainian regions, Kyrylenko said. The government had hoped to harvest 35 million tons (of grain this year. Last year, the grain harvest was 24.8 million tons.

Kuchma confirms land reform continuation

(Ukrainian News Agency)—President Leonid Kuchma has issued a decree confirming the main vectors of land reform until 2005.The decree instructs the Cabinet to develop a series of measures to implement land reforms within three months. It also instructs the Cabinet to determine the funds from next year's state budget to implement these measures. State Land Committee deputy head Constantine Radchenko said the final goal of the decree is the creation of private land ownership and guarantees for the right to land. The decree also contains measures for developing a legislative base for a land register, land conservation, and procedures for transferring ownership of land.

Kuchma promises to improve business climate

(RFE/RL)—President Leonid Kuchma promised on June 19 to promote radical tax reform, reduce inflation, and strengthen the banking system in order to improve the country's business climate, Interfax reported.

Speaking to the Foreign Investment Advisory Council, Kuchma said the government's main priorities for improving the investment climate will also include macroeconomic stabilization, transparent privatization, and intensification of land reform.

Kuchma invited the EU and Russia to take part in the privatization of Ukraine's gas- transporting system.

"Let us sit at a negotiation table as soon as tomorrow and start resolving this issue," Kuchma said, stressing that the privatization of Ukraine's gas pipelines should be a "trilateral process."

PGO suspends Poltava Oil & Gas decision

(Eastern Economist)—The Prosecutor-General's Office has suspended the implementation of a ruling by the High Court of Arbitration which said a disputed 49% stake in the Poltava Gas & Oil Company belongs to the British JP Kenny Exploration & Production company.

This was stated in a resolution by the Poltava city council, which, based on PGO decision, cancelled the registration of the JP Kenny Exploration & Production as a founder of the Poltava Gas & Oil.

By the same resolution, the Poltava city council restored the registration of Poltava-based Naftohaztekhnolohiya company as the owner of the 49% stake. The head of the Poltava Gas & Oil Company's Kyiv office, Serhiy Laktyonov, said that the prosecution's decision was hindering the company's work.

Briefly

Ukraine reports 9% growth

(RFE/RL)—The State Statistics Committee said Ukraine's GDP in January-May increased by 9 percent, compared with the same period last year, Interfax reported on June 15. The committee said the fastest growth was registered in the manufacturing industry (24.1 percent), wholesale and retail trade (12.5 percent), construction (9.9 percent), agriculture and forestry (5 percent), and extraction of natural resources (4.8 percent).

IMF sets conditions

(RFE/RL)—Following the visit of an IMF mission to Kyiv from June 11-20, the bank issued a statement saying that the resumption of its loans to Ukraine is dependent on the country's further trade liberalization and observation of budget discipline, AP reported on June 21. According to Interfax, the IMF also demands that the Ukrainian authorities reorganize or liquidate the loss-making Ukrayina Bank, the country's largest bank.

Pivdenne wins satellite bid

(Eastern Economist)—The Dnipropetrovsk-based construction bureau Pivdenne has won a tender for designing, producing and launching Egypt's first satellite. British, Russian and Italian designers also participated in the tender. The satellite designed by Ukraine will be created based on micro-technology and will weigh around 100 kg. The satellite will be boosted into a 688 km orbit by a Dnipro-1 rocket upgraded by Pivdenne. The tender also includes designing and constructing a center for satellite control in Egypt.

Kuchma stimulates agricultural sector

(Eastern Economist)—President Leonid Kuchma signed changes to the law on stimulating the agriculture sector from 2001-2004, June 25. The law creates equal conditions on the oil products market in Ukraine and will stimulate crude oil import and the processing of crude at Ukrainian refineries. Oil product traders have been deprived of all former privileges.

PHOTOS — UNIAN

Top: Pope John Paul II kisses the soil of Ukraine held up for him by two children upon his arrival in Kyiv's Boryspil Airport, June 23. Due to his frail condition, the pontiff is no longer able to prostrate himself on the ground as he did in previous visits. Left: His Holiness arrives in Lviv, June 25.

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